



THE COSMIC AVENGER!

# QUASAR

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APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

TO LEARN HIS COSMIC  
DESTINY FROM EON--



--QUASAR MUST FIRST SURVIVE  
A DEADLY DUEL WITH...

**DEATHURGE!**



RYAN A. BULANADI



Stan Lee presents

# QUASAR

HURLING THROUGH THE VAST INTERPLANETARY VOID IS A SPECK OF HIGHLY DEVELOPED ORGANIC LIFE SURROUNDED BY A NIMBUS OF RADIANT ENERGY.

THE SPECK IS A MAN NAMED WENDELL VAUGHN. HE PREFERS THE NAME QUASAR. THE NIMBUS OF ENERGY IS A MANIFESTATION OF THE ALIEN POWER-BANDS AT HIS WRISTS.



QUASAR'S DESTINATION IS URANUS, SEVENTH PLANET FROM THE SUN, ALMOST 3 BILLION KILOMETERS FROM HIS NATIVE WORLD, EARTH. HE HAS BEEN TRAVELING FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW AND HAS BUT A FEW MORE WEEKS TO GO.

HIS AVOWED PURPOSE IN MAKING THIS TEDIOUS AND SOLITARY VOYAGE IS TO LEARN THE ORIGIN OF THE ENERGY-BRACELETS BONDED TO HIS FOREARMS.

BUT KNOWLEDGE IS NOT ALL THAT AWAITS HIM AT HIS JOURNEY'S END.

## DESTINY AMIDST THE RUINS

mark  
gruenwald  
writer

paul  
ryan  
penciler

danny  
bulanadi  
inker

janice  
chiang  
letterer

paul  
becton  
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howard  
mackie  
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tom  
defalco  
the man

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WRAPPED IN HIS CORUSCATING ENERGY COCOON, HIS HEARTBEAT AND RESPIRATION SLOWED BY CHEMICALS TO 1/100 THEIR NORMAL RATE. HIS MIND IS IN A DEEP DREAMLESS SLEEP.

EVERY 100,000 KILOMETERS OR SO, HOWEVER, IT PLUCKS AN IMAGE OUT OF HIS SUBCONSCIOUS AND SENDS IT CARVENING PAST THE THRESHOLD OF AWARENESS.

WERE HE TO PLACE THOSE IMAGES IN SEQUENTIAL ORDER, HE WOULD BE REMINDED OF ALL THE STEPS THAT LED TO HIS EMBARKING UPON HIS JOURNEY.

PERHAPS THE FIRST SUCH IMAGE WOULD BE THAT OF HIM AS AN AGENT-IN-TRAINING AT SHIELD'S SPY SCHOOL.

HIS INSTRUCTORS PRAISED HIS TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY BUT CRITICIZED HIS LACK OF "KILLER INSTINCT".



ASSIGNED TO ROUTINE GUARD DUTY, HE WATCHED AS THE WRISTBANDS HE NOW WEARS WERE FIELD-TESTED BY ANOTHER MAN.



--A MAN WHO PANICKED WHEN THE BANDS WOULD NOT COME OFF AND DISINTEGRATED HIMSELF.

NOT AN HOUR LATER, ANDROIDS SENT BY THE CRIMINAL ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS STAGED A RAID. THEIR OBJECTIVE: TO STEAL THE ALIEN ENERGY-BANDS.

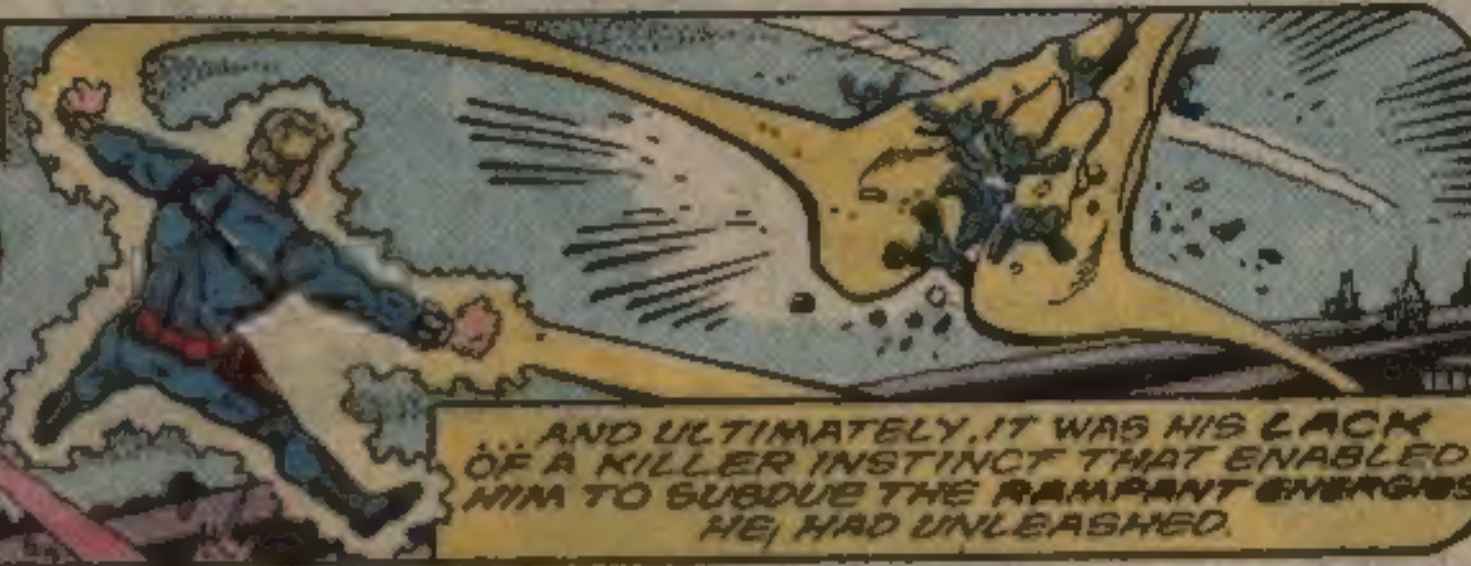


TO PROTECT THEM, VAUGHN PUT THEM ON--

--AND LEARNED THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THEIR OPERATION UNDER THE MOST HAZARDOUS POSSIBLE CONDITIONS.



STILL, HE MANAGED TO REPULSE THE AIM INVASION.



AND ULTIMATELY, IT WAS HIS LACK OF A KILLER INSTINCT THAT ENABLED HIM TO SUBDUCE THE RAMPANT ENERGIES HE HAD UNLEASHED.

HIS STRONG SHOWING EARNED HIM A PLACE IN SHIELD'S FLEDGLING SUPER-AGENT PROGRAM. ALONG WITH BLUE STREAK, THE VAMP, AND THE TEXAS TWISTER, HE UNDERWENT SPECIAL TRAINING.



BUT WHEN BLUE STREAK AND THE VAMP TURNED OUT TO BE DOUBLE AGENTS, THE PROGRAM WAS DISMANTLED.

WORKING ALONGSIDE THE LEGENDARY CAPTAIN AMERICA, HE NOT ONLY HELPED SHIELD LEARN WHO SENT THE INFILTRATORS--



--HE ALSO GOT A CHANCE TO PIT HIS POWER AGAINST THE MIGHT OF THE RAGING HULK.



**HIS SHIELD CREDENTIALS LANDED HIM A JOB AS HEAD OF SECURITY--**

**--AT THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPERIMENTAL ENERGY FACILITY, PROJECT PEGASUS.**

**WITHIN WEEKS OF HIS ARRIVAL, THE PROJECT WAS NEARLY DESTROYED BY THE SPACE-ENGULFING NTN MAN. IT TOOK THE COMBINED FORCES OF THUNDRA, THE THING, THE AQUARIAN, AND HIMSELF TO AVERT CATASTROPHE.**

**VOWING NEVER TO ALLOW ANY SITUATION TO GET OUT OF HAND AGAIN, HE NEVERTHELESS FELL PREY TO THE WILL-NUMBING SERPENT CROWN, WHICH HAD TAKEN OVER THE REST OF THE PROJECT'S WORKERS...**

**ALTHOUGH A MAJOR DISASTER WAS AGAIN PREVENTED DUE TO OUTSIDE INTERVENTION--**

**--QUASAR FELT THAT IT WAS NEGLIGENCE ON HIS PART THAT ENABLED THE CRISIS TO OCCUR.**

**DESPONDENT, HE TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION AS HEAD OF SECURITY TO THE PROJECT'S DIRECTOR, MYRON WILBURN, AND WOULD NOT LET HIMSELF BE TALKED OUT OF IT.**

**PUTTING AWAY HIS COSTUME, HE SPENT THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AT HIS MOTHER'S HOME IN WISCONSIN, SITTING IN HIS OLD BEDROOM, STRUMMING HIS GUITAR, LIFTING WEIGHTS, AND AVOIDING LIFE.**

**AT HER WIT'S END, HIS MOTHER FINALLY CALLED HER EX-HUSBAND TO COME TO TRY TO DRAW THEIR SON OUT FROM BENEATH HIS VEIL OF DEPRESSION.**

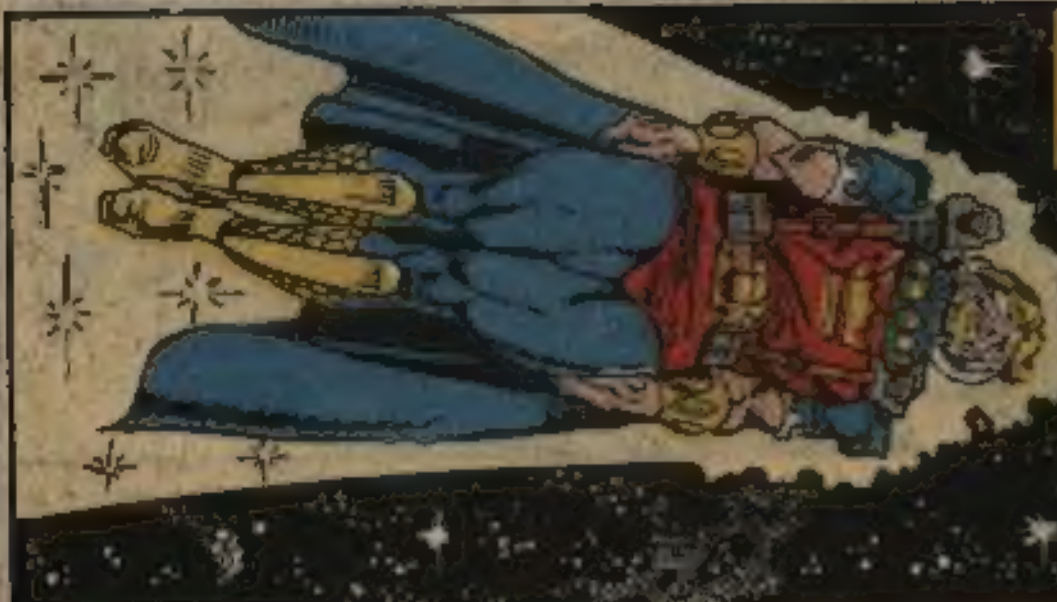
**DR. GILBERT VAUGHN, ONE OF THE PHYSICISTS ORIGINALLY CALLED UPON TO STUDY THE ALIEN ENERGY-BANDS, PROPOSED HIS SON UNDERTAKE A SCIENTIFIC MISSION TO LEARN THEIR ORIGIN.**

**ATTRACTED TO THE PROSPECT OF SPENDING TIME ALONE IN THE VOID OF SPACE, QUASAR AGREED.**

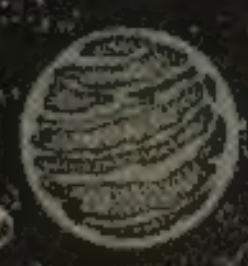
**FIND AFTER WEEKS OF EXHAUSTIVE PREPARATION, THE EQUIPMENT-LADEN ADVENTURER PENETRATED THE ENVELOPE OF ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING HIS HOME PLANET FOR THE FIRST TIME--**

**--AND PROMPTLY WENT TO SLEEP.**



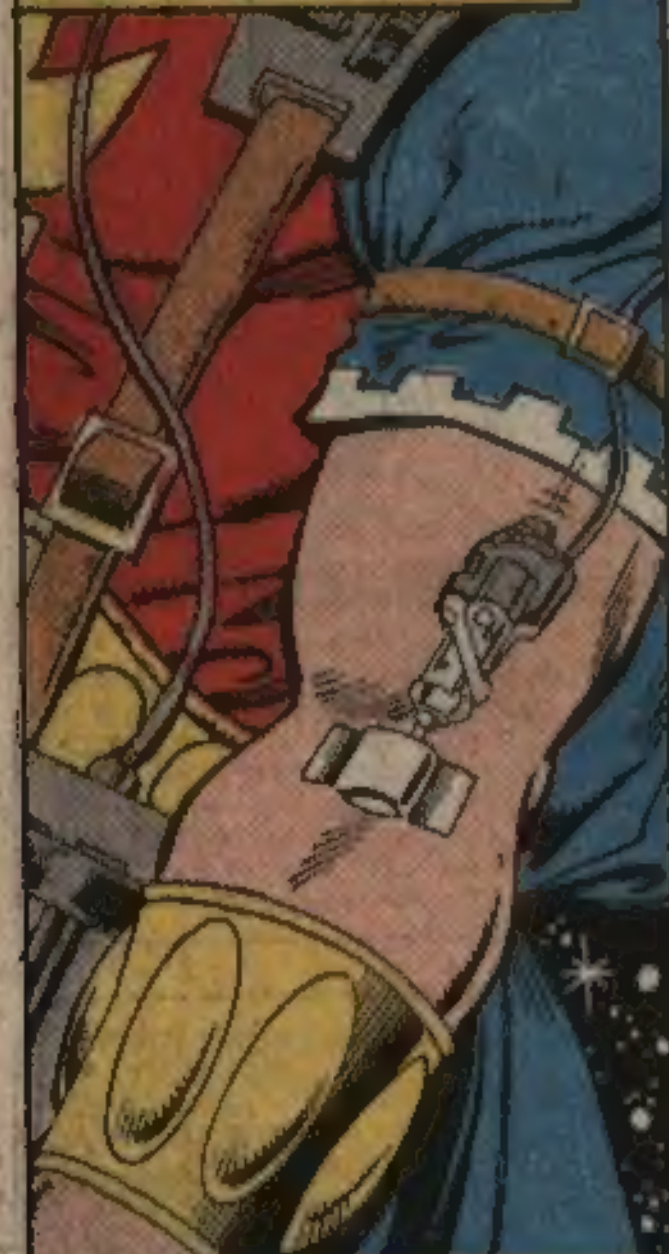


THE PARADE OF IMAGES LAPSES. WEEKS PASS. URANUS GROWS FROM AN INDISTINGUISHABLE POINT OF LIGHT TO A BLURRY BLUE-GREEN GOLF BALL.

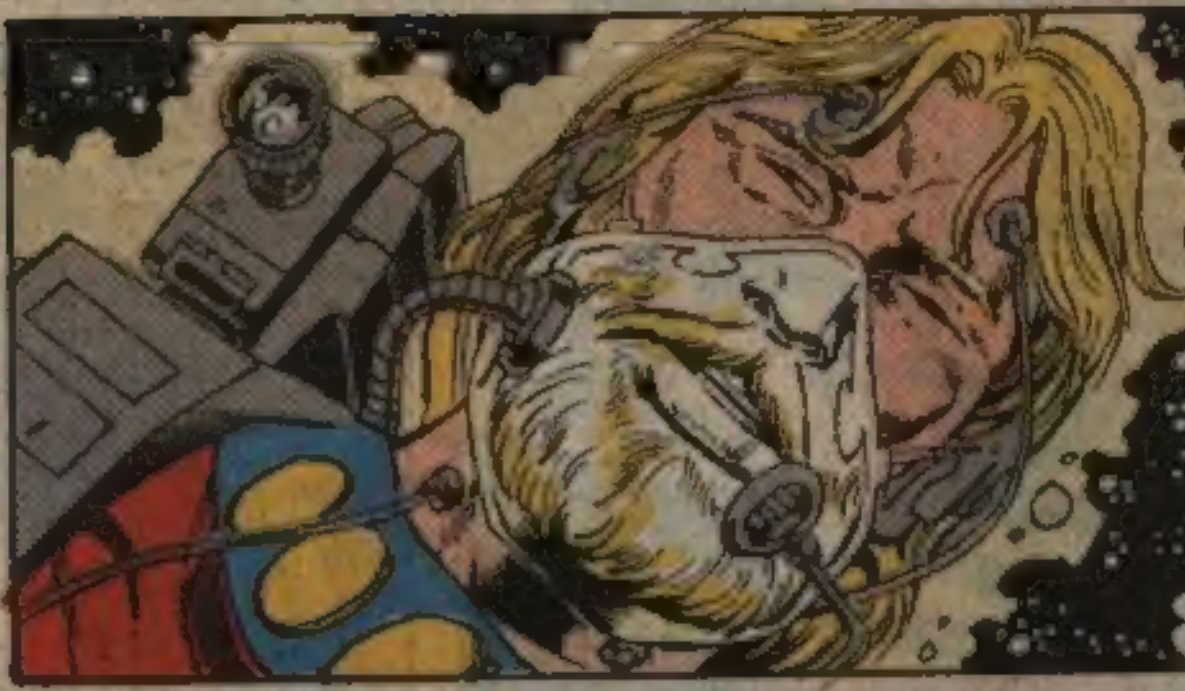


WHEN IT IS THE SIZE OF A CANTALOUPE, CIRCUITRY INSIDE QUASAR'S LIFE SUPPORT RIG ARE REMOTELY ACTIVATED--

--THE GAS THAT HAS SLOWED HIS BODILY FUNCTIONS TO A CRAWL IS REPLACED BY PURE OXYGEN--



--AND THE INTRAVENOUS TUBE PROVIDING HIM NOURISHMENT SENDS STIMULANT THROUGH HIS BLOOD INSTEAD.



11 HUNDRED THOUSAND KILOMETERS LATER, QUASAR OPENS HIS EYES.

WHERE... AM... I...?

AM I THERE ALREADY?



I FEEL LIKE I BARELY GOT A FULL NIGHT'S SLEEP!

UNNGH! MY ARMS-- JUST MOVING THEM-- ACHES SO MUCH! NO WONDER. IF I'VE BEEN ASLEEP AS LONG AS I WAS SUPPOSED TO, I HAVEN'T HAD ANY EXERCISE IN OVER FOUR YEARS!

HERE IN ZERO-GRAVITY, I PROBABLY LOST ALL MY MUSCLE TONE. BETTER START EXERCISING OR I'LL BE A PHYSICAL WASTE BY THE TIME I GET BACK HOME.

IF I GET BACK HOME.



DAD, I'M AWAKE, YOU READING ME?

STRETCH ONE, STRETCH TWO, STRETCH THREE, STRETCH FOUR...

I FORGET HOW LONG THE TRANSMISSION TIME LAG IS BETWEEN HERE AND EARTH. SEVERAL HOURS, I THINK EVEN AT LIGHT-SPEED.



MAN, AM I HUNGRY. GLUCOSE MAY KEEP YOU ALIVE, BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE YOU FEEL FULL.

THAT MUST BE URANUS. LOOKS COLD UNINVITING.



WELL, I WASN'T INVITED. I'M JUST AN OLD PLANET CRASHER, LOOKING FOR SOMETHING THAT'S PROBABLY NOT EVEN THERE.

LET'S SEE, WHERE WAS I? STRETCH 964...



HOURS PASS...

OKAY, I COMPLETED AN ORBIT AROUND THE EQUATOR. NOW LET ME TRY THE POLES...

YES, I READ YOU SON! HOPE YOU'RE DOING FINE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES!



HA, SO THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES TO GET MOM AND DAD IN THE SAME ROOM TOGETHER AFTER ALL THIS TIME.

I HEAR YOU LOUD AND CLEAR, MOM, DAD. HOW'S THE VIDEO RECEPTION OVER.

SEVERAL HOURS LATER, ON EARTH...

RECEPTION'S GREAT, SON. CAN'T WAIT TO SEE N.A.S.A.'S REACTION WHEN I HAND THEM THESE TAPES.



WEN SOUNDS BETTER THAN HE DID WHEN HE LEFT. BUT I STILL DON'T KNOW IF ALL THIS SOLITUDE IS THE BEST WAY TO BRING HIM OUT OF HIS DEPRESSION.

HEY DAD. ANY IDEA WHERE I BEGIN SEARCHING A PLANET FOUR TIMES BIGGER THAN THE EARTH FOR CLUES TO THE "ENIGMA OF THE AMAZING ENERGY-BANDS"? OVER.



MAN, THESE TRANSMISSION LAGS ARE A DRAG!

HUH? THE BANDS ARE SPARKING-- LIKE THEY'VE DETECTED SOME SORT OF ENERGY ANOMALY!



I THINK I'VE PICKED UP SOMETHING, DAD. I'M GOING DOWN OVER.



URANUS'S ATMOSPHERE IS SUPPOSED TO BE LARGELY **HYDROGEN** AND **HELIUM**, QUITE UNBREATHABLE.



**COLD, TOO. NOT TOO MANY DEGREES ABOVE ABSOLUTE ZERO. THE PLANET'S SURFACE IS AN OCEAN OF ICE.**

THIS COULD BE A **WILD-GOOSE CHASE**. THE ORIGINAL POSSESSOR OF THESE BRACELETS MIGHT HAVE BEEN **BLOWING STEAM** WHEN HE SAID HE GOT THEM ON URANUS!

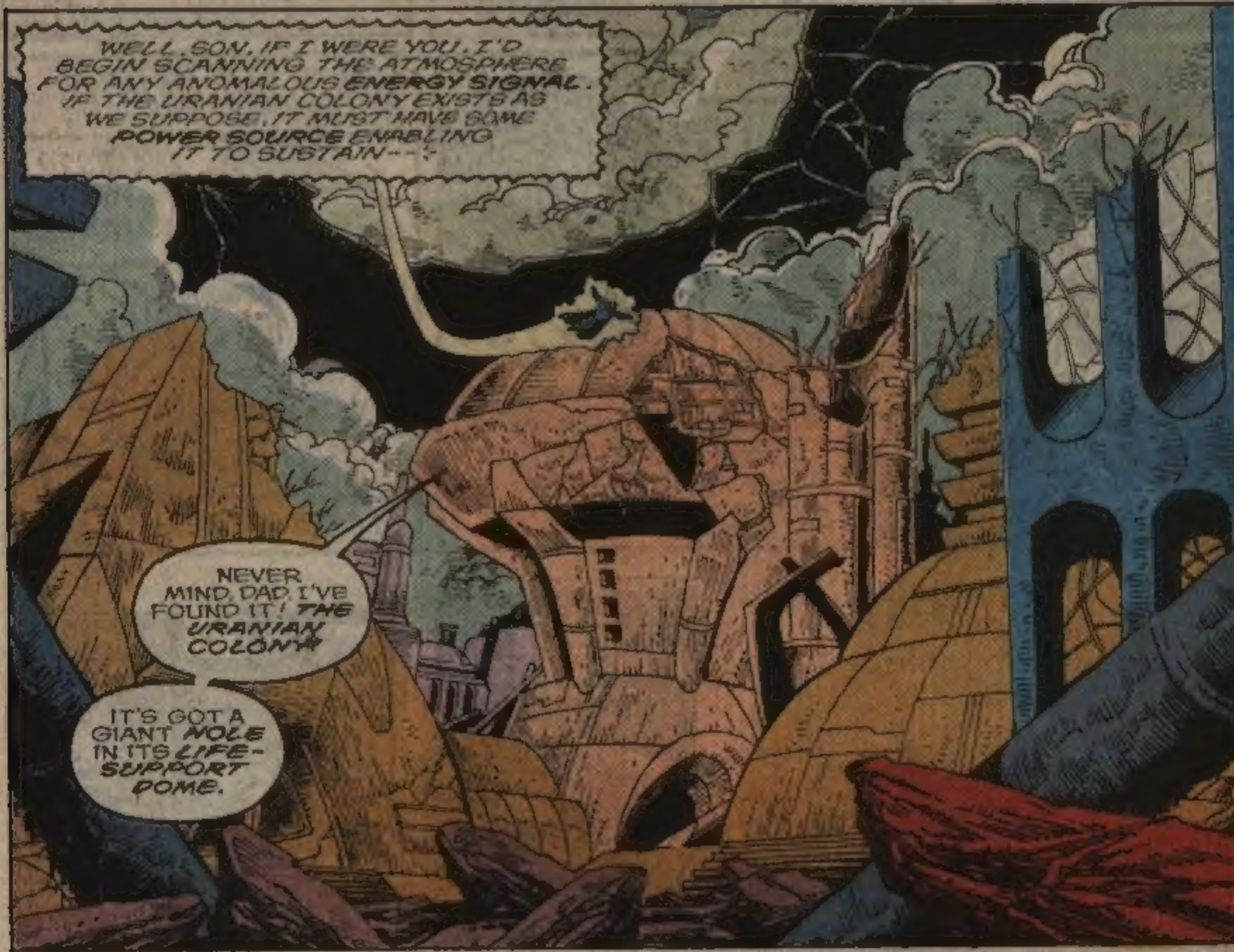
THE **URANIAN COLONY** HE CLAIMED HE LIVED IN MIGHT NOT EVEN--



WHAT'S **THAT--?**



HOLY--!



WELL, SON, IF I WERE YOU, I'D BEGIN SCANNING THE ATMOSPHERE FOR ANY ANOMALOUS **ENERGY SIGNAL**. IF THE **URANIAN COLONY** EXISTS AS WE SUPPOSE, IT MUST HAVE SOME **POWER SOURCE** ENABLING IT TO SUSTAIN--

NEVER MIND, DAD, I'VE FOUND IT! **THE URANIAN COLONY!**

IT'S GOT A GIANT **MOLE** IN ITS **LIFE-SUPPORT DOME**.



IS YOUR VIDEO  
PICKING UP ALL  
THIS DAD? AN HONEST-  
TO-GOODNESS-  
EXTRATERRESTRIAL  
CITY ALL LYING IN  
FRIGID RUIN.



FROM THE LOOK AT  
THE WAY THE DEBRIS  
OF THE DOME FELL, I'D  
GUESS THAT SOMETHING  
BURST IT FROM WITHIN  
RATHER THAN SMASHED  
IT FROM WITHOUT.

PEOPLE! FLASH-FROZEN!  
THE URANIAN COLONISTS!  
THEY... LOOK SO HUMAN!

I'LL CHECK THEM  
OUT CLOSER IN A  
MINUTE. I WANT TO  
GET A FEEL FOR THIS  
WHOLE CITY  
FIRST.



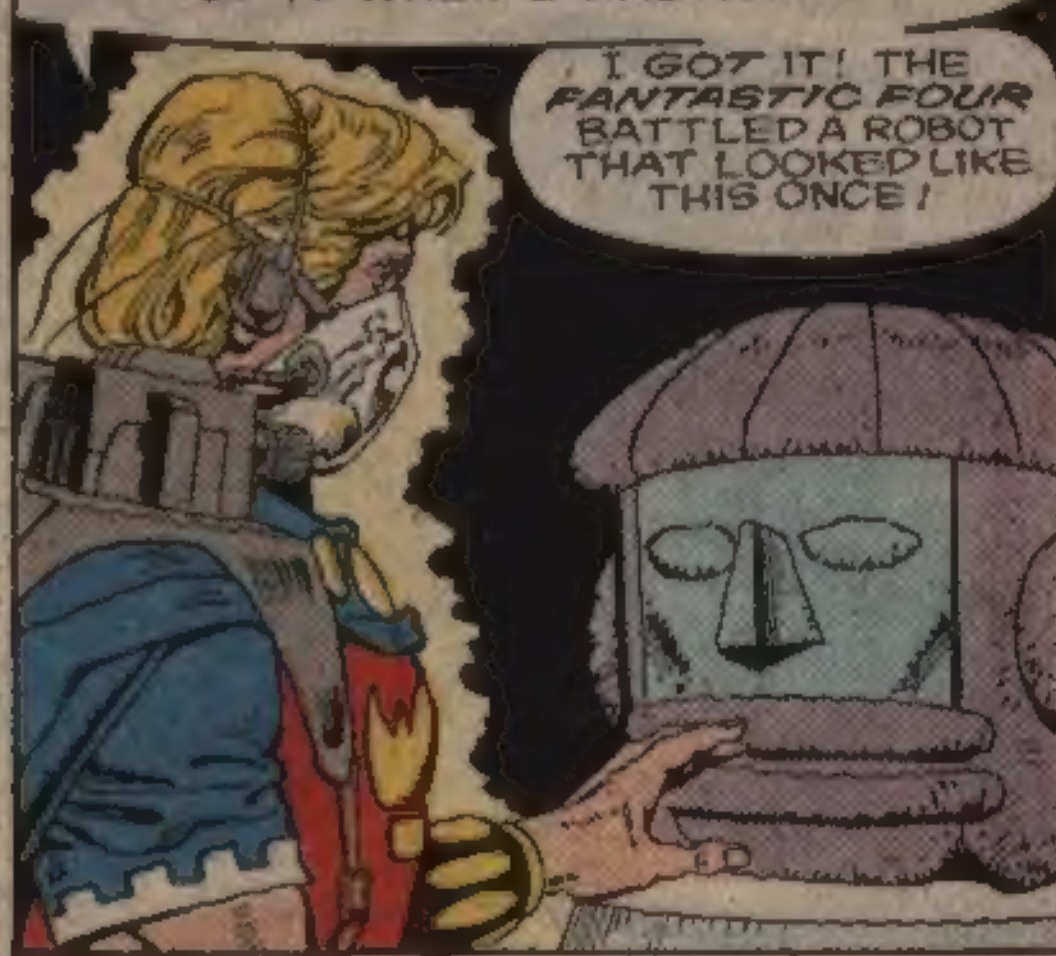
WHAT DO YOU MAKE  
OF THIS, DAD? LOOK  
AS MUCH LIKE A  
MUSEUM TO  
YOU AS IT DOES  
TO ME?



UNLESS I CAN FIND A  
LIBRARY, HERE'S AS LIKELY  
A PLACE TO FIND CLUES  
ABOUT MY JEWELRY  
AS ANY.

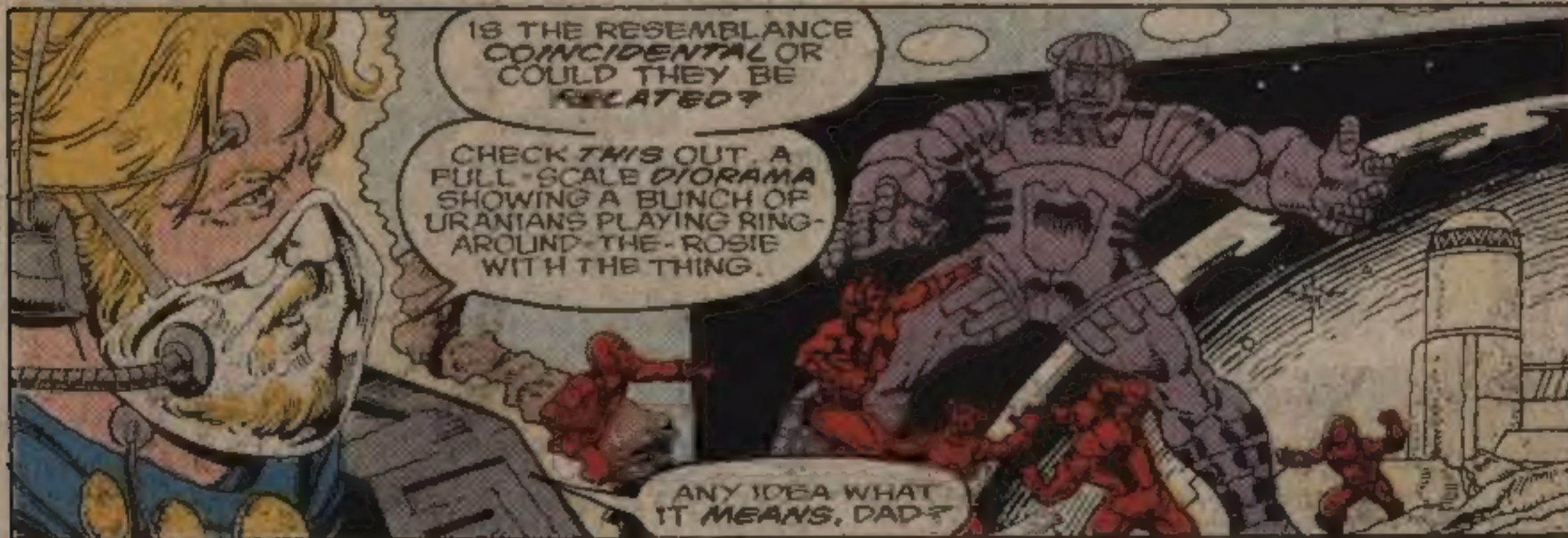


THAT METAL HEAD LOOKS FAMILIAR.  
I COULD HAVE SWORN I SAW PICTURES  
OF IT WHEN I WAS A KID.



IS THE RESEMBLANCE  
COINCIDENTAL OR  
COULD THEY BE  
RELATED?

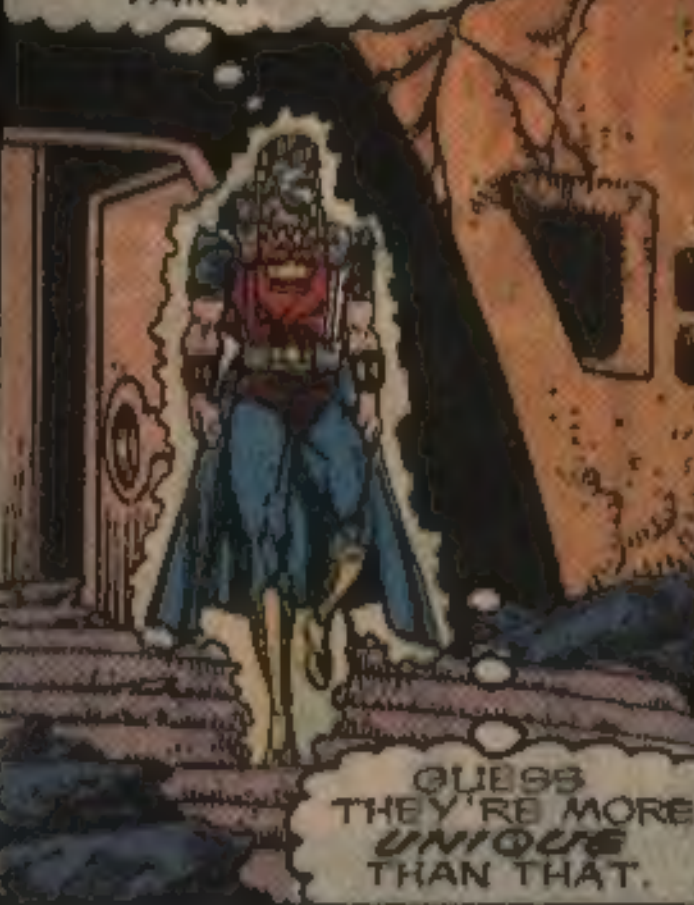
CHECK THIS OUT. A  
FULL-SCALE DIORAMA  
SHOWING A BUNCH OF  
URANIANS PLAYING RING-  
AROUND-THE-ROSE  
WITH THE THING.





FIND AFTER A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE PREMISES...

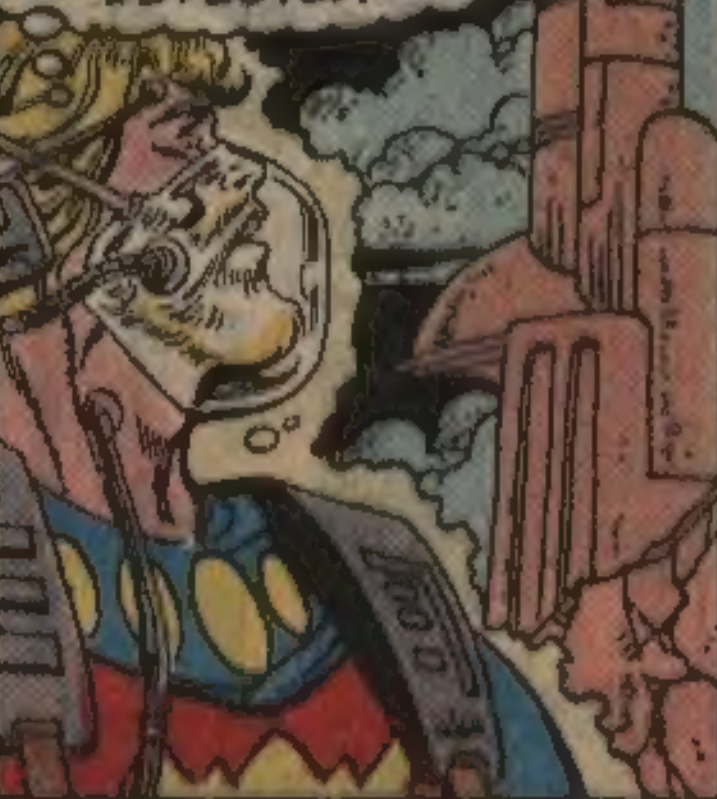
CAN'T FIND ANYTHING THAT SEEMS TO PERTAIN TO MY ENERGY-BANDS. I WAS HALF-EXPECTING TO SEE **EVERYBODY** HERE WEARING A PAIR.



GUESS THEY'RE MORE **UNIQUE** THAN THAT.

NO SIGN OF A **FACTORY** WHERE THESE THINGS COULD HAVE BEEN MANUFACTURED, EITHER.

THE **TOWER** APPEARS TO BE PART OF THE COLONY'S **POWER PLANT**. IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE **FISSIONABLE MATERIAL** INSIDE IT MY **BRACELETS** DETECTED.



NOW WHAT? ALL THIS WAY AND WHAT DO I FIND? A COUPLE OF BLOCKS OF HIGH-TECH **RUINS** AND A COUPLE DOZEN HUMAN-LOOKING **STIFFS**.

SAY, DAD, ALL THIS **DISAPPOINT** YOU AS MUCH AS IT DOES **ME**?



HEY, I JUST REALIZED... I HAVEN'T GOTTEN A TRANSMISSION FROM DAD SINCE...? SINCE I **SET DOWN** ON THIS PLANET'S SURFACE OVER **FOUR HOURS** AGO! WHAT GIVES?



TURN UP THE VOLUME ON THE **RECEPTOR** A BIT...

I DON'T HEAR ANY **BACKGROUND STATIC**. MY COMMUNICATORS **GONE DEAD**!

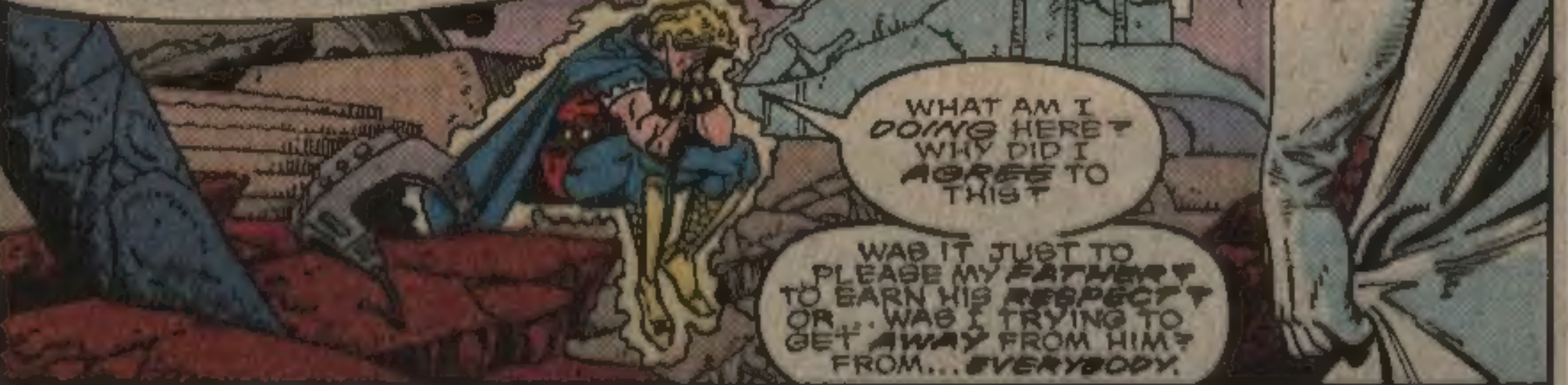


HAHAHAHAHA!



I MAKE MYSELF **LAUGH** SOMETIMES.

HERE I AM A COUPLE **BILLION MILES** FROM HOME, STANDING IN A DEAD CITY, WITH NO ONE BUT **CORPSES** TO TALK TO, AND I STILL DON'T KNOW **WHATEVER POSSESSED** ME TO MAKE THIS TRIP!



WHAT AM I DOING HERE? WHY DID I **AGREE** TO THIS?

WAS IT JUST TO PLEASE MY **FATHER**? TO EARN HIS **RESPECT**? OR... WAS I TRYING TO GET **AWAY** FROM HIM? FROM... **EVERYBODY**.



YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU CAME HERE? I CAN ANSWER THAT.



WHO--?!

I AM DEATHURGE.

YOU'RE --  
A URANIAN--?



NO.  
I AM  
WHO  
I AM.

WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING HERE? WHAT  
DO YOU WANT?

I WANT WHAT  
YOU WANT.  
YOUR DEATH.

WHAT--?  
WHAT ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?



I CAME  
HERE SEEKING  
ANSWERS--  
NOT DEATH!



THE HEART IS MINE TO  
PEER INTO, AND I SEE THE  
TRUTH. YOU HAVE COME  
HERE TO SEEK FREEDOM  
FROM ALL RESPONSIBILITY--  
FROM LIFE ITSELF.

I APPEAR WHENEVER MEN HAVE  
LOST THE WILL TO LIVE, TO  
STRIVE, TO ENDURE.



I AM THE MESSENGER  
OF OBLIVION.

I AM THE  
EMBODIMENT OF THE  
LIVING ORGANISM'S  
DARKEST IMPULSE--  
SELF-  
DESTRUCTION.



BEHOLD THE URANIAN  
COLONY OF THE  
EVOLUTIONARY OFFSHOOT  
OF THE HUMAN RACE  
CALLED THE ETERNALS.  
DO YOU WISH TO KNOW  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO THEM?

I KNOW YOU  
DO. I SHALL  
TELL  
YOU THEN.



FOR HUNDREDS OF MILLENNIA  
THE URANIAN ETERNALS  
WERE A SOCIETY OF  
SCHOLARS AND  
PHILOSOPHERS. THEIR GOAL  
WAS NO LESS THAN TO  
UNDERSTAND THE COSMOS IN  
ITS ENTIRETY.

EACH MEMBER OF THE  
COMMUNITY DEDICATED  
HIS OR HER LENGTHY  
LIFE SPAN TO DISCOVERING  
THE GRAND  
UNIFIED  
THEORY OF  
EVERY-  
THING.



"ABOUT A THOUSAND OF YOUR YEARS AGO, ONE OF THE URANIANS DID DISCOVER THE EQUATION THAT EXPLAINS THE UNIVERSE. IT TOOK SEVERAL HUNDRED MORE YEARS TO CHECK HIS CALCULATIONS AND VERIFY HIS CONCLUSIONS EXPERIMENTALLY

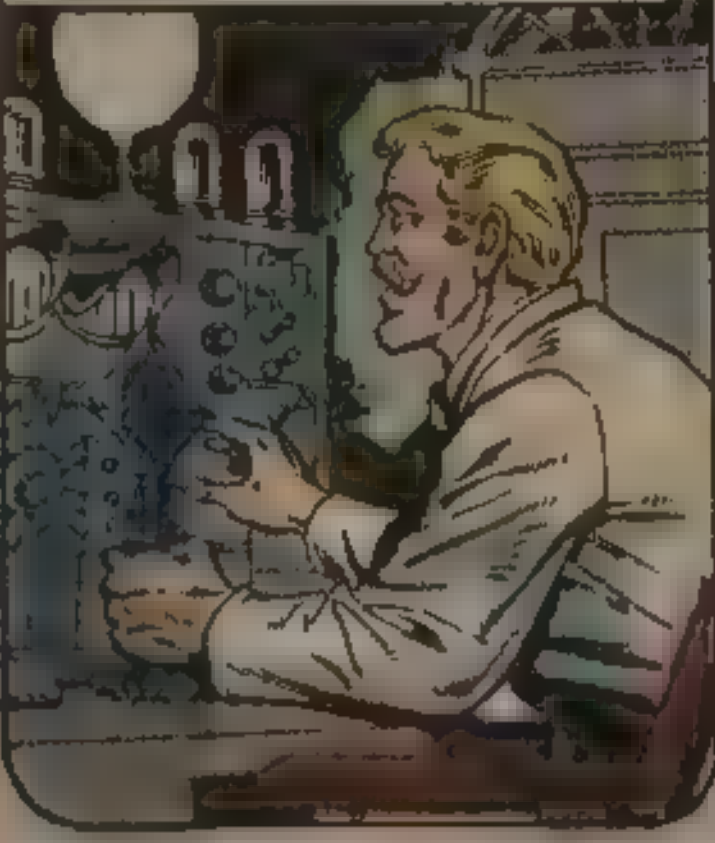


"BUT THE EQUATION TURNED OUT TO BE CORRECT, AND ONCE THEY HAD THE ULTIMATE ANSWER TO THE MEANING OF LIFE, THEY HAD NO MORE CHALLENGES, NOTHING LEFT TO LIVE FOR

"YET BECAUSE OF THEIR NEAR-IMMORTALITY, IT WAS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE URANIANS TO TERMINATE THEIR EXISTENCES.



"SO THEY SUMMONED A MORTAL SCIENTIST FROM THE PLANET OF THEIR BIRTH, HOPING THAT BY STUDYING HIM, THEY COULD MAKE THEMSELVES MORTAL AGAIN AND THEREBY PUT AN END TO THE NIGHTMARISH BOREDOM.



"THEY DICTATED TO HORACE GRABBHEID PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A SPACESHIP CAPABLE OF MAKING THE LONG INTERPLANETARY FLIGHT. THE SCIENTIST BUILT IT IN HIS OWN BACK YARD.



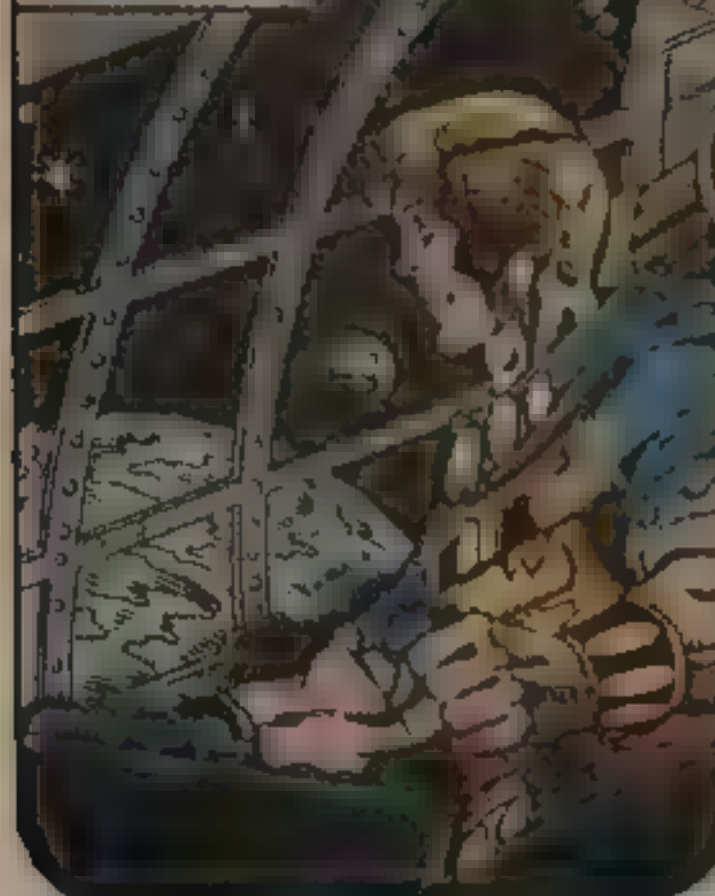
"A DECADE LATER, GRABBHEID AND HIS SON ARRIVED HERE AND WERE WARMLY WELCOMED BY THE URANIANS WITHOUT HIS KNOWING IT, THEY SCANNED THE EARTH MAN FOR THE MORTALITY FACTOR LOCKED IN HIS CELLS.



"IN RETURN FOR GIVING THEM THE KEY TO OBSCOLESCENCE, THEY SHARED WITH GRABBHEID THE SECRET OF THE UNIVERSE. THEIR GREATEST THOUGHTFUL MAN HAD FOUND IT. PROFOUNDLY MOVED, THE PEACE-LOVING SCIENTIST.



"THE MAN'S SON WAS TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, AND SO THEY SENT HIM AWAY BACK TO EARTH, BEARING THE TRINKETS THAT YOU NOW WEAR.



"I HAD LEARNED OF THEIR ABJECT DESPAIR BY THEN, AND WITH THEIR MOST ARDENT BELIEVES, I RENT THE TEAR IN THEIR LIFE-DOME.



"THEIR LIFE FORCES NOW EVISCERATED, THEY WERE ABLE AT LAST TO DIE. I WATCHED THEM ALL MEET OBLIVION WITH OPEN ARMS AND LOVING SMILES.





YOU'RE A REGULAR **GHOUZ**. AREN'T YOU?

SO WHAT HAPPENED **THEY** WAIT. I BELIEVE I KNOW GRABSHED'S SON RETURNED TO EARTH IN THE 1950'S AND USED THESE **POWER-BANDS** IN HIS ONE-MAN CRUSADE AGAINST CRIME. RIGHT?



"YES AND WHEN HE WAS UNABLE TO CONTACT HIS **FATHER**, HE FEARED HE HAD **TAKEN ILL**. ACQUIRING MEDICAL SUPPLIES, THE BOY-- **MARVEL BOY**, HE CALLED HIMSELF, SET FORTH FOR **URANUS**."



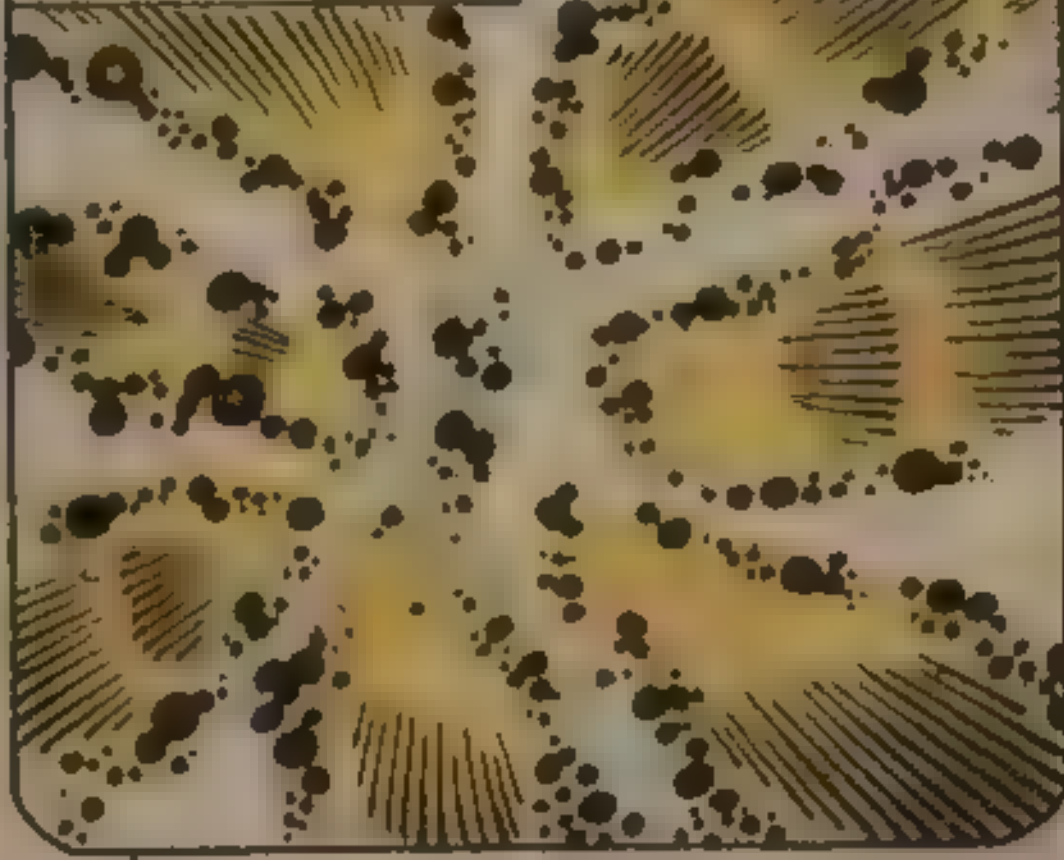
"WHEN HE EVENTUALLY **ARRIVED**, HE FOUND HE WAS **TOO LATE**. EVERYONE WAS IN THE BLISSFUL STATE YOU SEE THEM NOW. THE SIGHT DROVE HIM **MAD**."



"UP ONCE MORE RETURNED TO EARTH, **BLAMING** ITS PEOPLE FOR THE FACT THAT HE WAS NOT ON **URANUS** WHEN THE **DISASTER** OCCURRED. HE WENT ON A **BINGE OF DESTRUCTION--**"



"--AND WAS **CONSUMED** BY THE **ENERGIES** IN THE **TRINKET**. **HE** **NEVER** **COULD** **NO** **LONGER** **CONTROL**."



I KNEW THAT WAS HOW HE MET HIS **END**, BUT I HADN'T KNOWN WHAT ALL **LED UP TO** IT. THANKS FOR THE **HISTORY LESSON**.

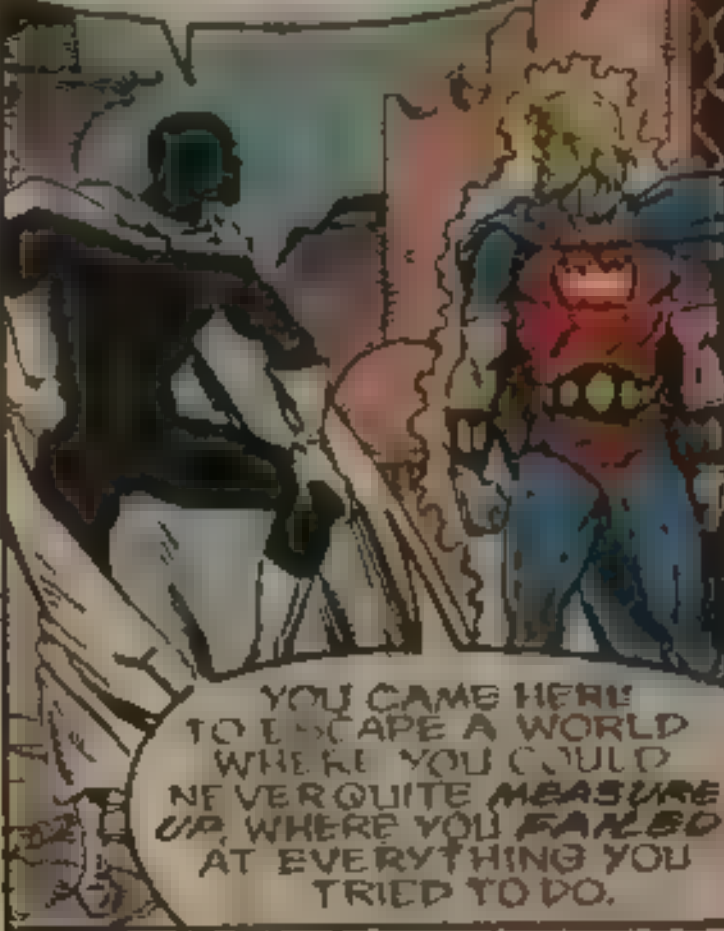


SO, MR. KNOW-- IT-ALL WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THESE "**TRINKETS**" THAT BROUGHT ME HERE

NOTHING.

THEN WHAT WAS THE **POINT** OF THAT WHOLE STORY?

CALL IT AN **OBJECT LESSON** LIKE THE **URANIANS** YOU SEEK **OBIVION**. I HAVE COME TO HELP YOU **FIND IT**



YOU CAME HERE TO **ESCAPE** A WORLD WHERE YOU COULD **NEVER** **QUITE** **MEASURE UP**. WHERE YOU **FAILED** AT EVERYTHING YOU TRIED TO DO.

YOUR **FATHER**, **SHIELD** **PROJECT PEGASUS**. YOU'VE LET THEM **ALL** **DOWN**. HAVEN'T YOU? AND SO YOU'VE **GIVEN UP**. YOU FEEL IT IS A **WASTE OF EFFORT** TO GO ON.

YET YOUR **COWARDICE** WON'T PERMIT YOU TO **DISPATCH** YOURSELF. SO YOU UNDERTOOK THIS VOYAGE WITH THE HOPE THAT SOME **MISHAP** WOULD FIND IT ALL FOR YOU.



I AM THAT **MISHAP**



YOU ARE WRONG! I HAVEN'T  
FAILED EVERYBODY AND I HAVEN'T  
COME HERE TO DIE!

SURE I HAVEN'T  
ALWAYS BEEN ABLE  
TO DO AS WELL AS I  
WANTED BUT I'VE  
ALWAYS TRIED AND I'M  
GOING TO KEEP ON  
TRYING!

NO,  
QUASAR, NOW  
YOU'RE GOING  
TO DIE!

HOW DID HE  
DO THAT?  
WHAT'S THIS GUY  
MADE OF?

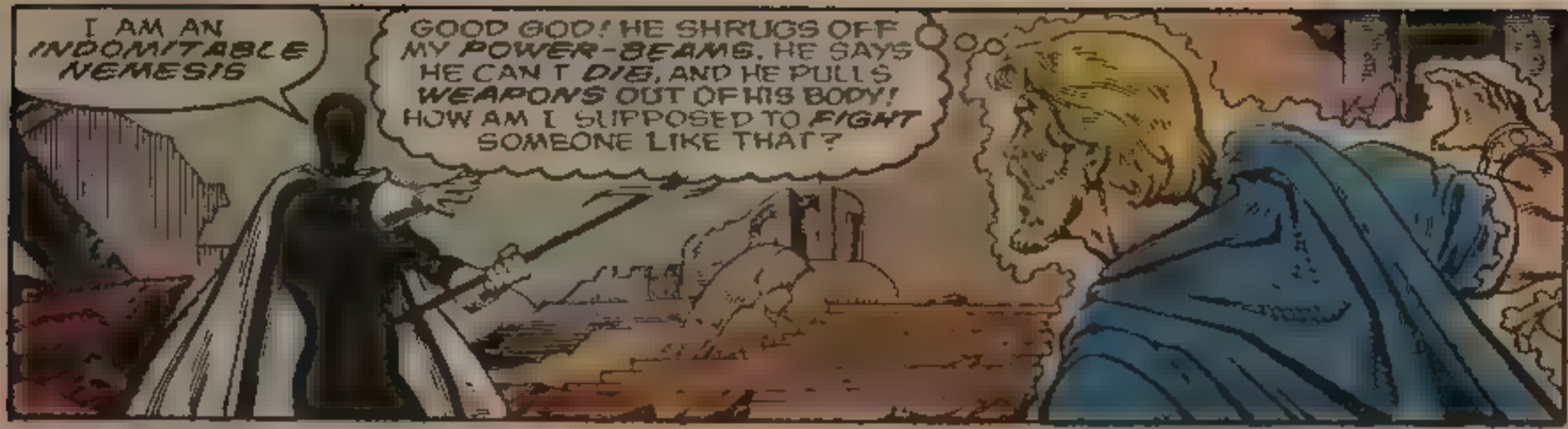
RESISTANCE IS  
FUTILE. DEATH  
IS IN YOUR HEART,  
EVEN IF YOUR  
MIND HAS YET TO  
REALIZE IT!

YOU  
LIKE DEATH  
SO MUCH,  
MAYBE  
YOU'D  
LIKE A  
TASTE!

I CANNOT DIE!

NOR CAN ENERGY-  
EMANATIONS  
WILDED BY A  
MAN WHO WANTS  
TO DIE AFFECT  
ME IN THE  
SLIGHTEST





I AM AN  
INDOMITABLE  
NEMESIS

GOOD GOD! HE SHRUGS OFF  
MY POWER-BEAMS. HE SAYS  
HE CAN'T DIE, AND HE PULLS  
WEAPONS OUT OF HIS BODY!  
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIGHT  
SOMEONE LIKE THAT?



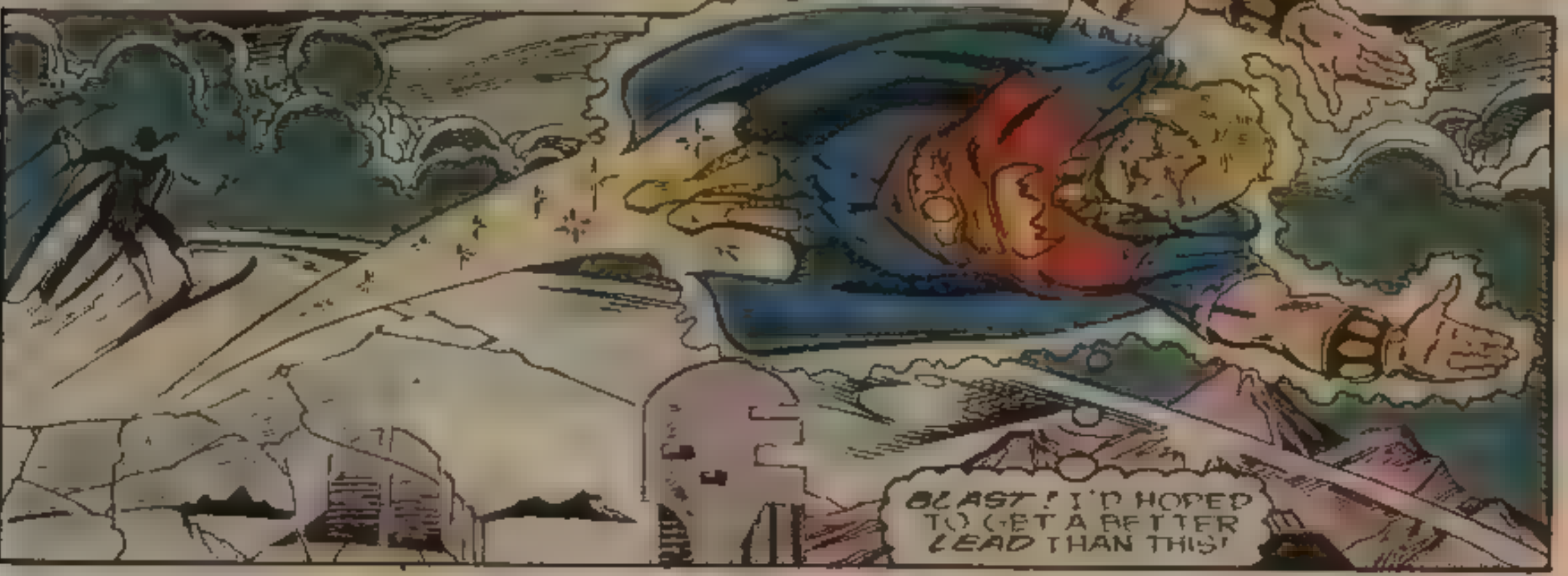
ANSWER. I'M NOT.  
I'D BETTER TRY  
TO LOSE HIM

YOU  
MAY  
RUN--

-- BUT I'LL  
FIND YOU  
WHEREVER  
YOU GO!

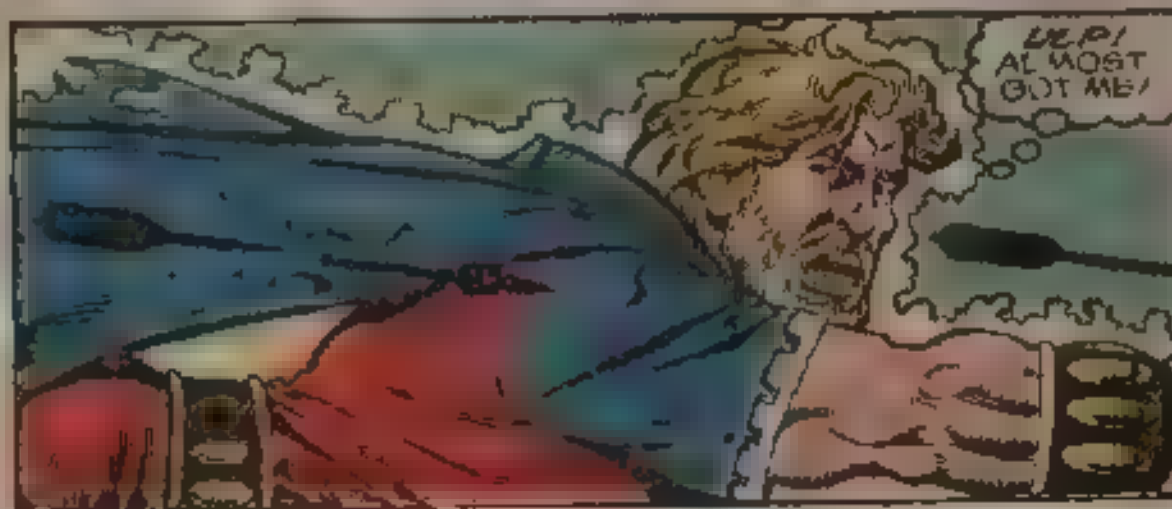
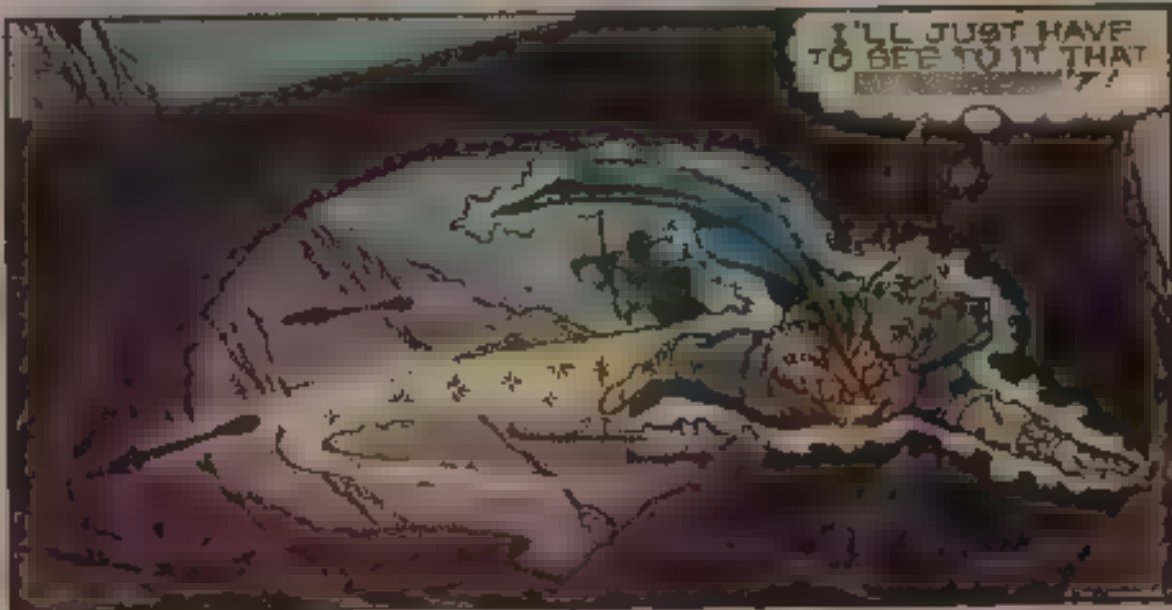
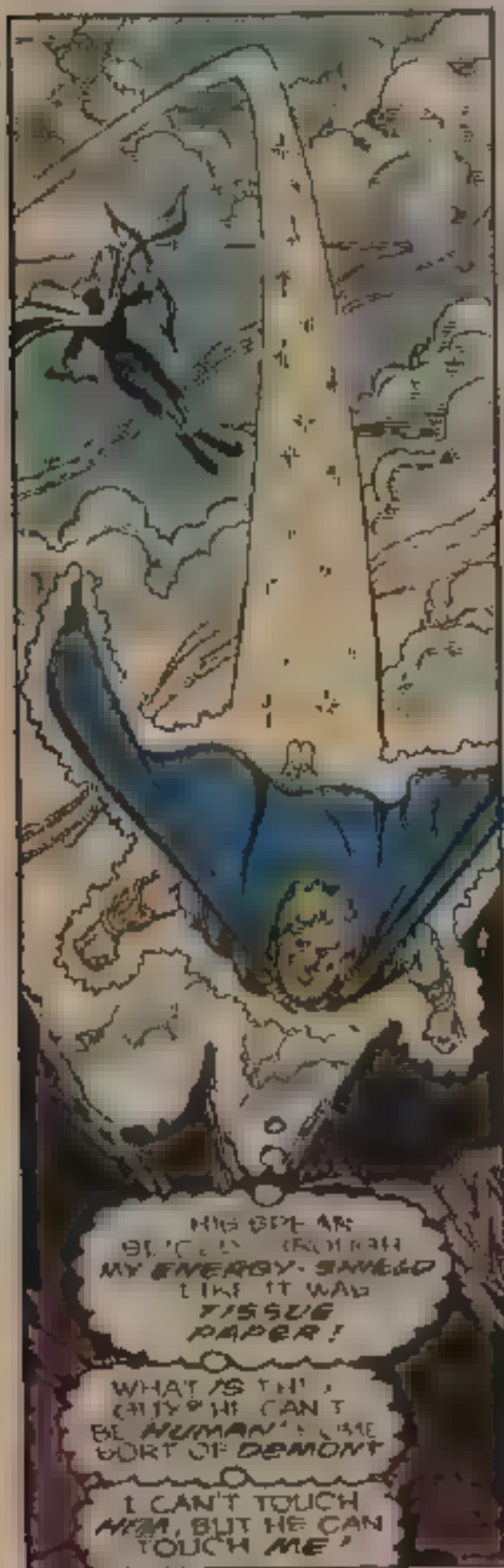
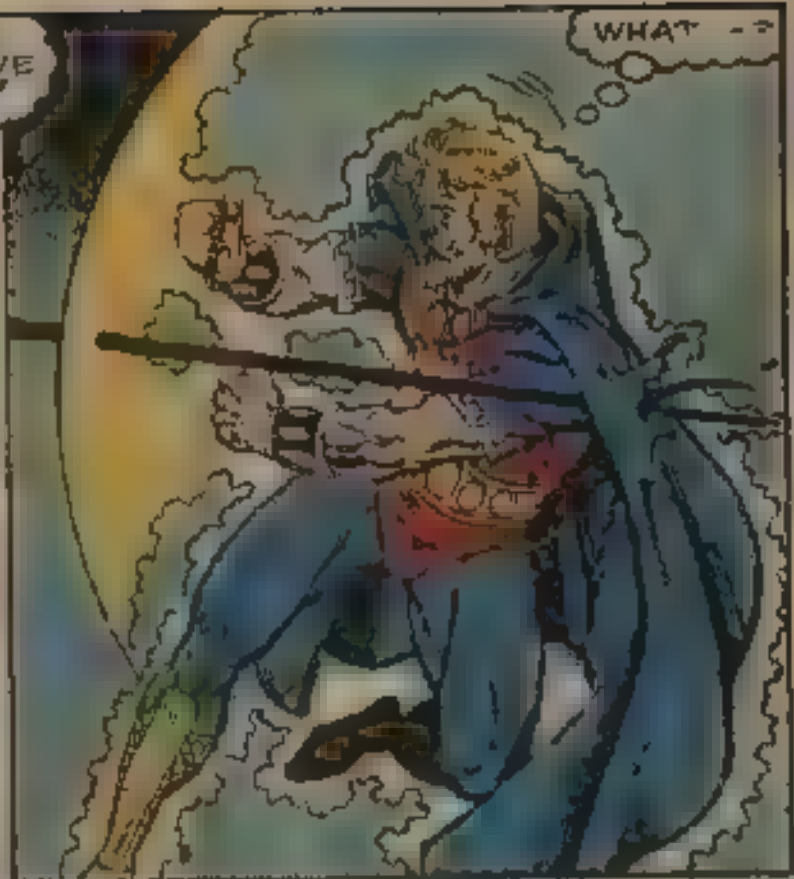
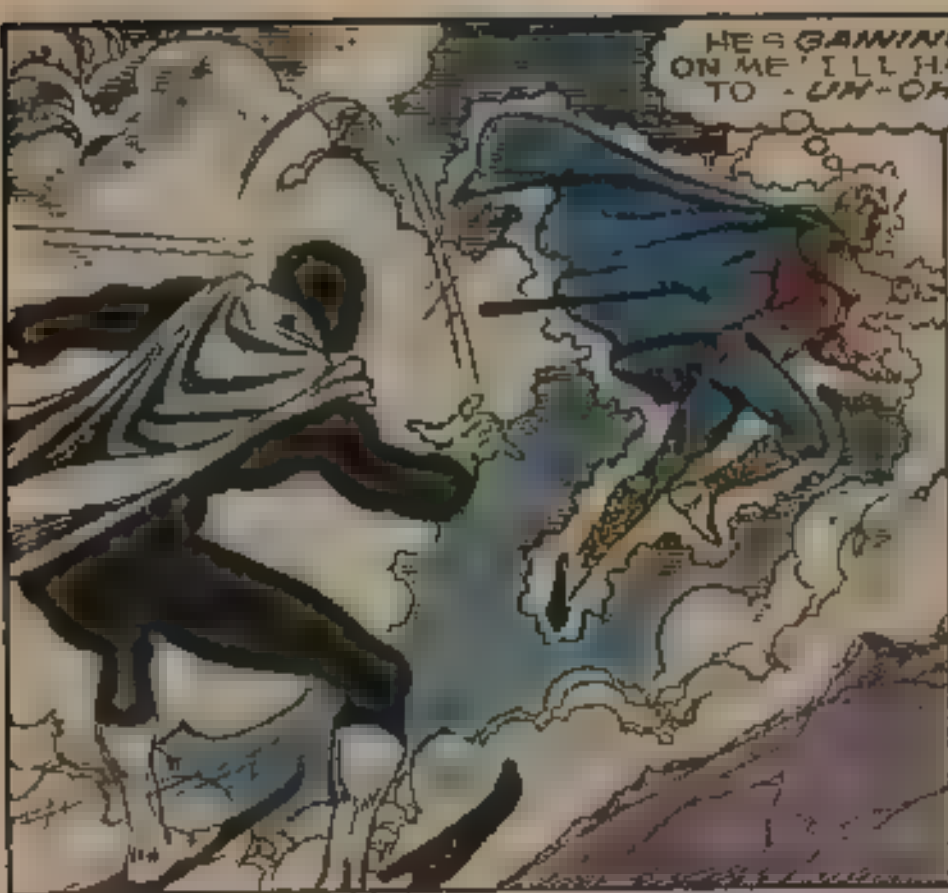


GIVE UP, QUASAR!  
THERE IS NO  
ESCAPE!



BLAST! I'D HOPED  
TO GET A BETTER  
LEAD THAN THIS!





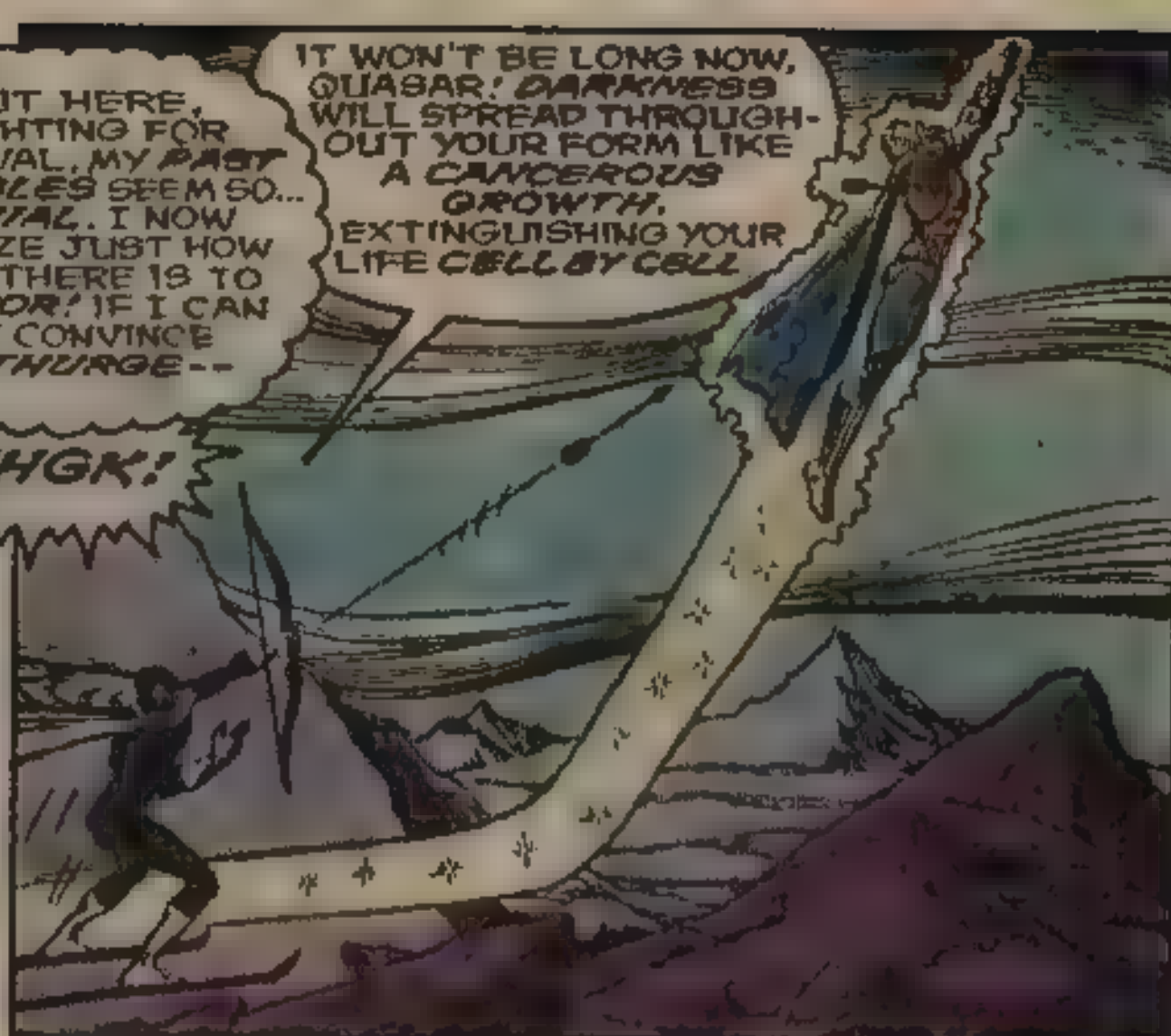
NO! I MAY HAVE BEEN DEPRESSED WHEN I ARIED TO MAKE THIS THING BUT EVERYONE DOES THROUGH ALL THE PERIODS THAT I WILL HAVE TO RETURN YOU LIKE RECHARGE YOUR BATTERIES



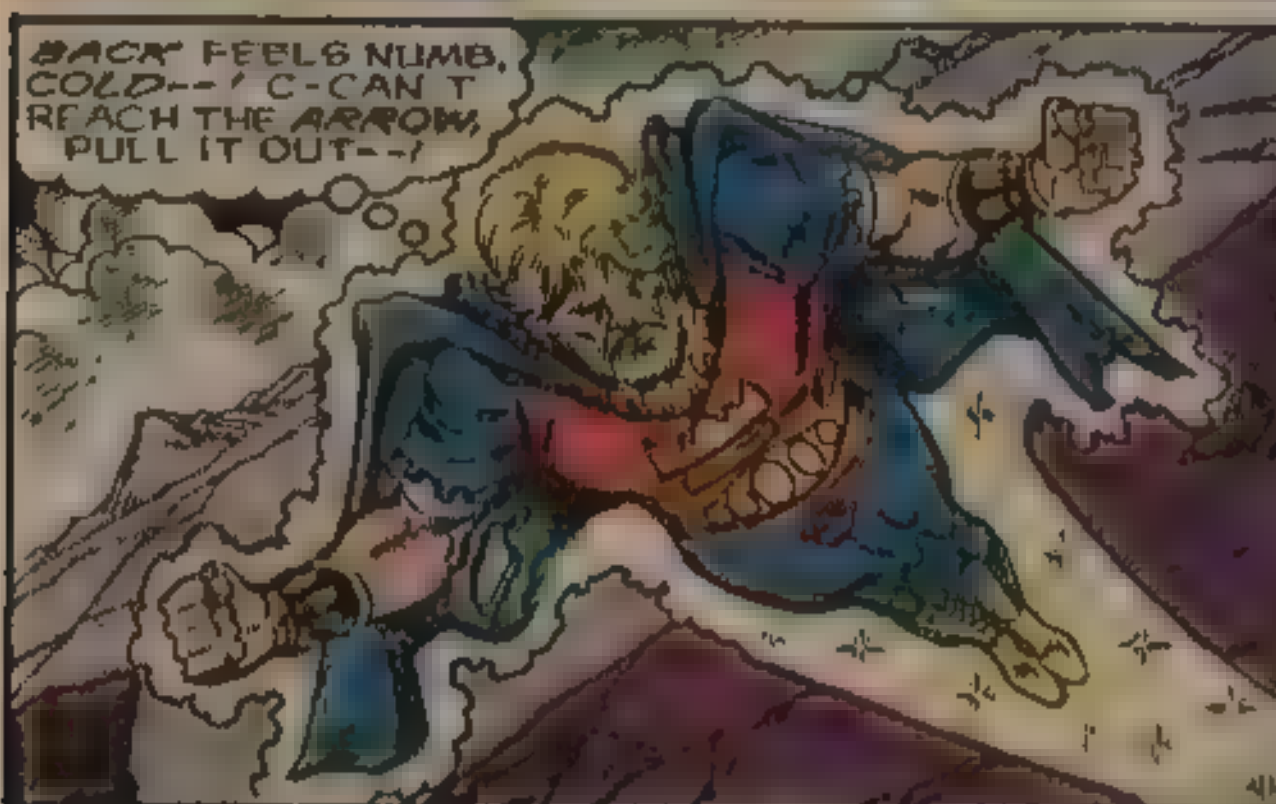


OUT HERE,  
FIGHTING FOR  
SURVIVAL, MY PAST  
TROUBLES SEEM SO...  
TRIVIAL. I NOW  
REALIZE JUST HOW  
MUCH THERE IS TO  
LIVE FOR! IF I CAN  
JUST CONVINCE  
DEATHURGE--

ANHGK!



IT WON'T BE LONG NOW,  
QUASAR! DARKNESS  
WILL SPREAD THROUGH-  
OUT YOUR FORM LIKE  
A CANCEROUS  
GROWTH,  
EXTINGUISHING YOUR  
LIFE CELL BY CELL



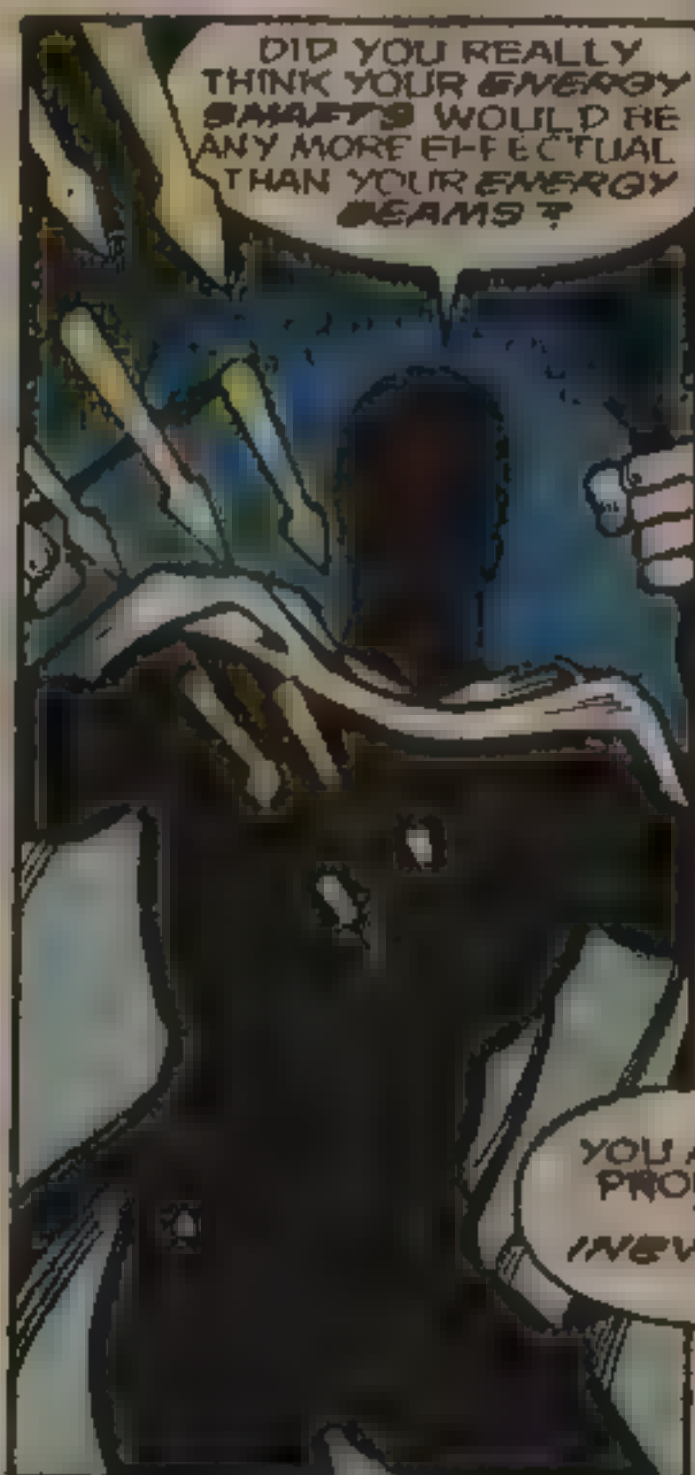
BACK FEELS NUMB,  
COLD--! C-CAN'T  
REACH THE ARROW,  
PULL IT OUT--!

BLAST YOU, DEATHURGE!  
THIS ISN'T FAIR! NO ONE  
STANDS A CHANCE  
AGAINST YOU--!

LIFE IS NOT  
FAIR, ONLY  
DEATH IS.  
YOU'LL SEE

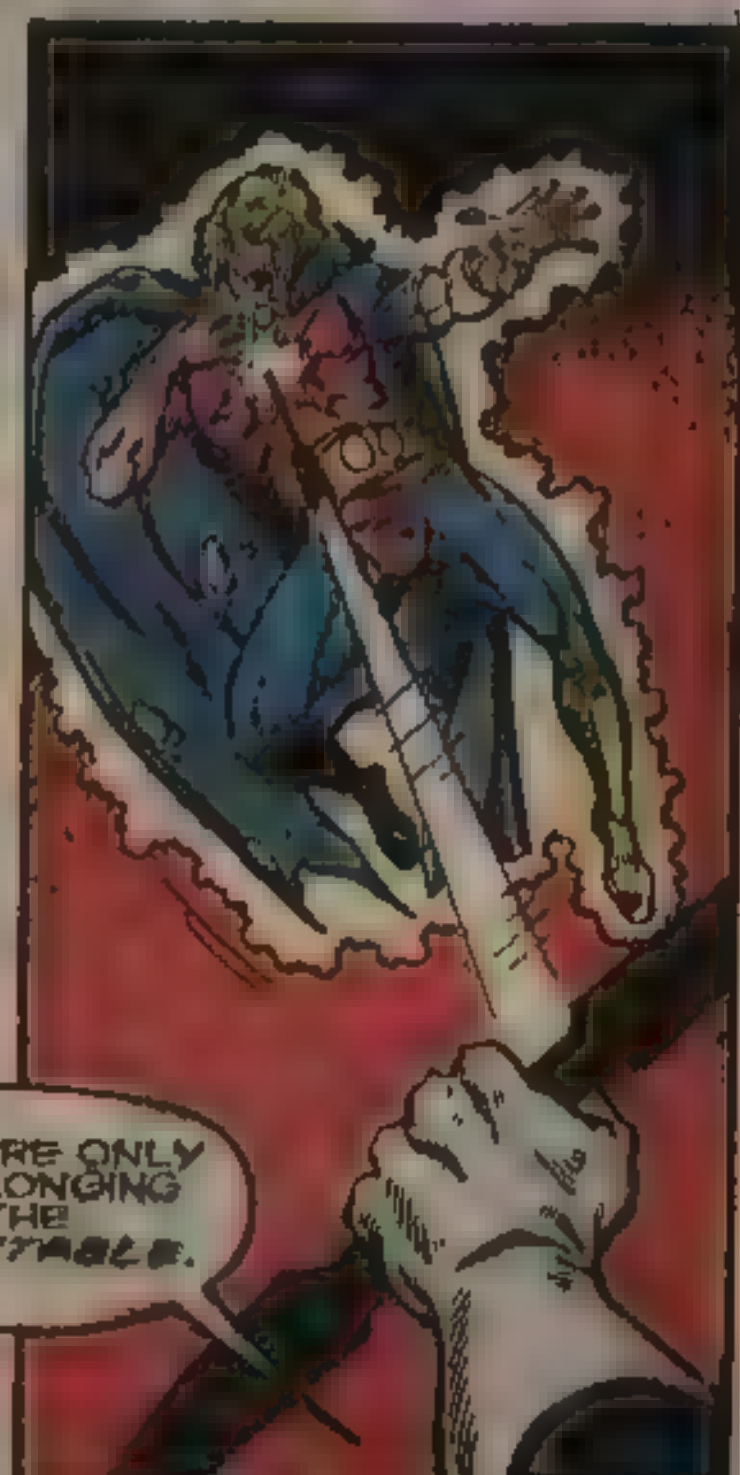


**SHUT UP!**  
I'M NOT GOING TO DIE!

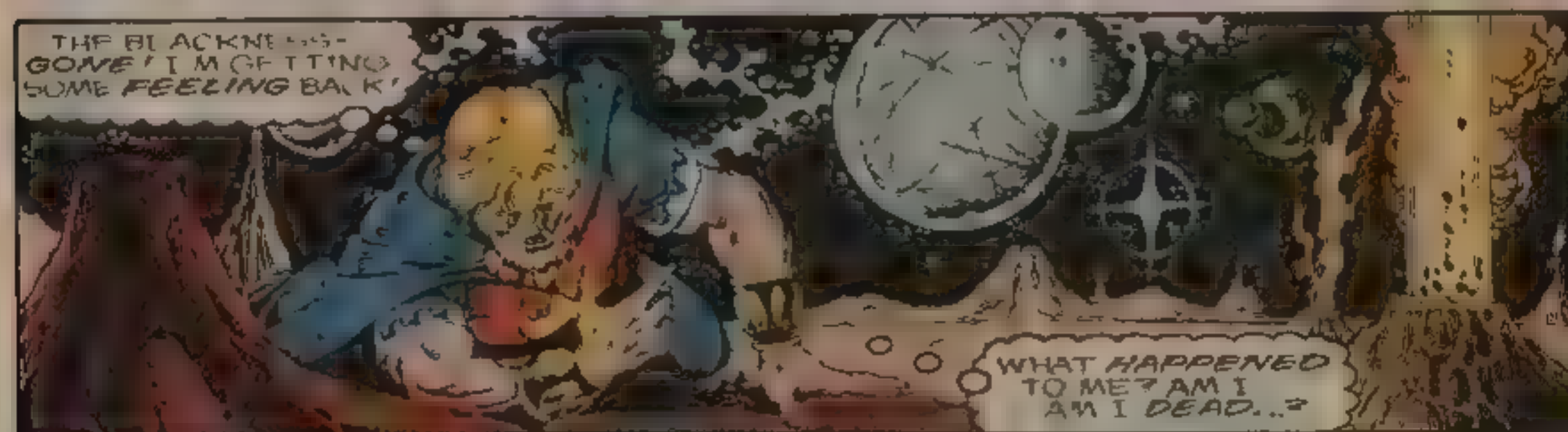
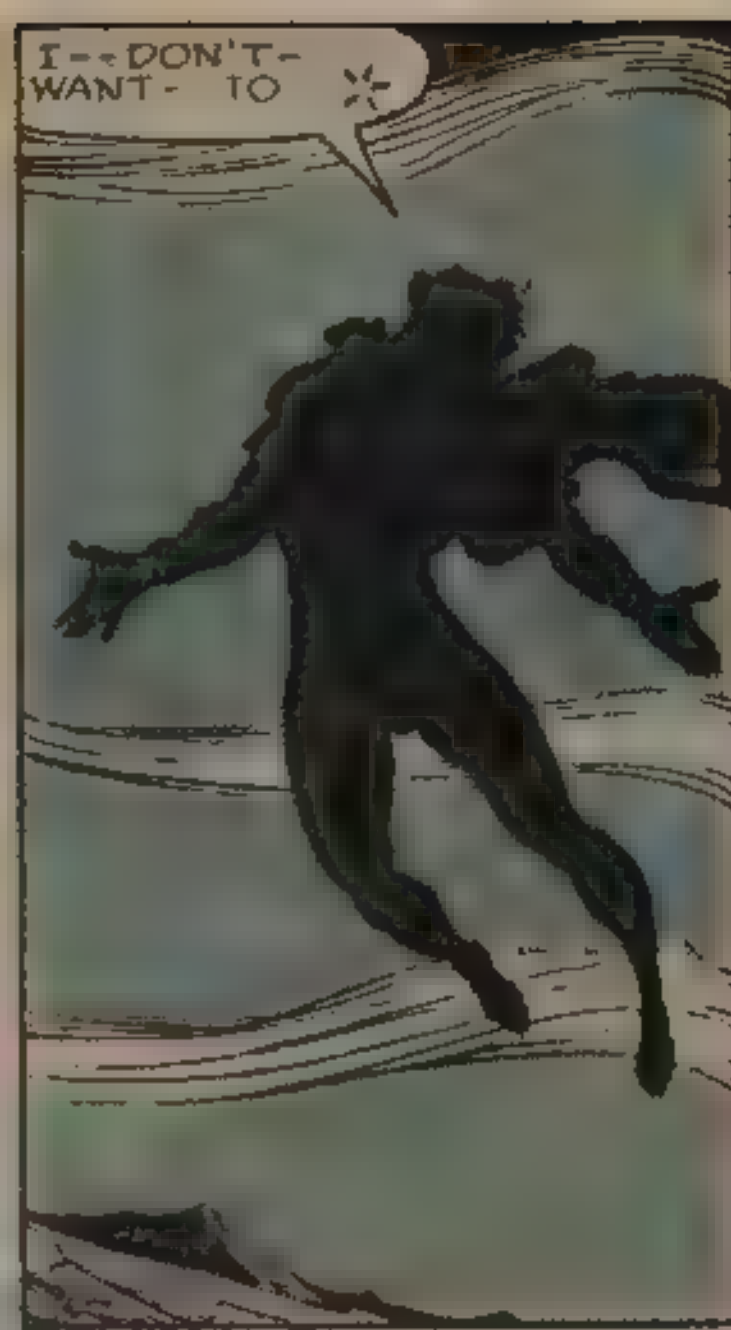
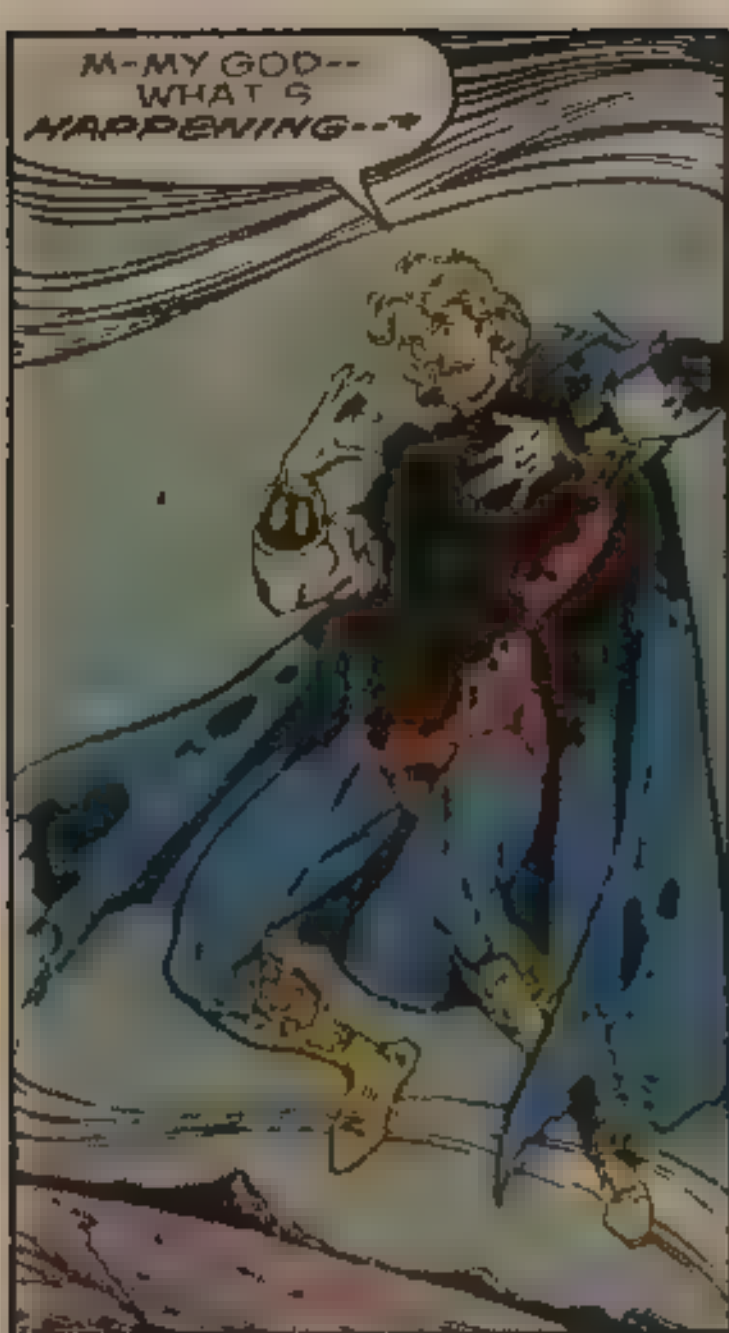


DID YOU REALLY  
THINK YOUR ENERGY  
SHAFTS WOULD BE  
ANY MORE EFFECTUAL  
THAN YOUR ENERGY  
BEAMS?

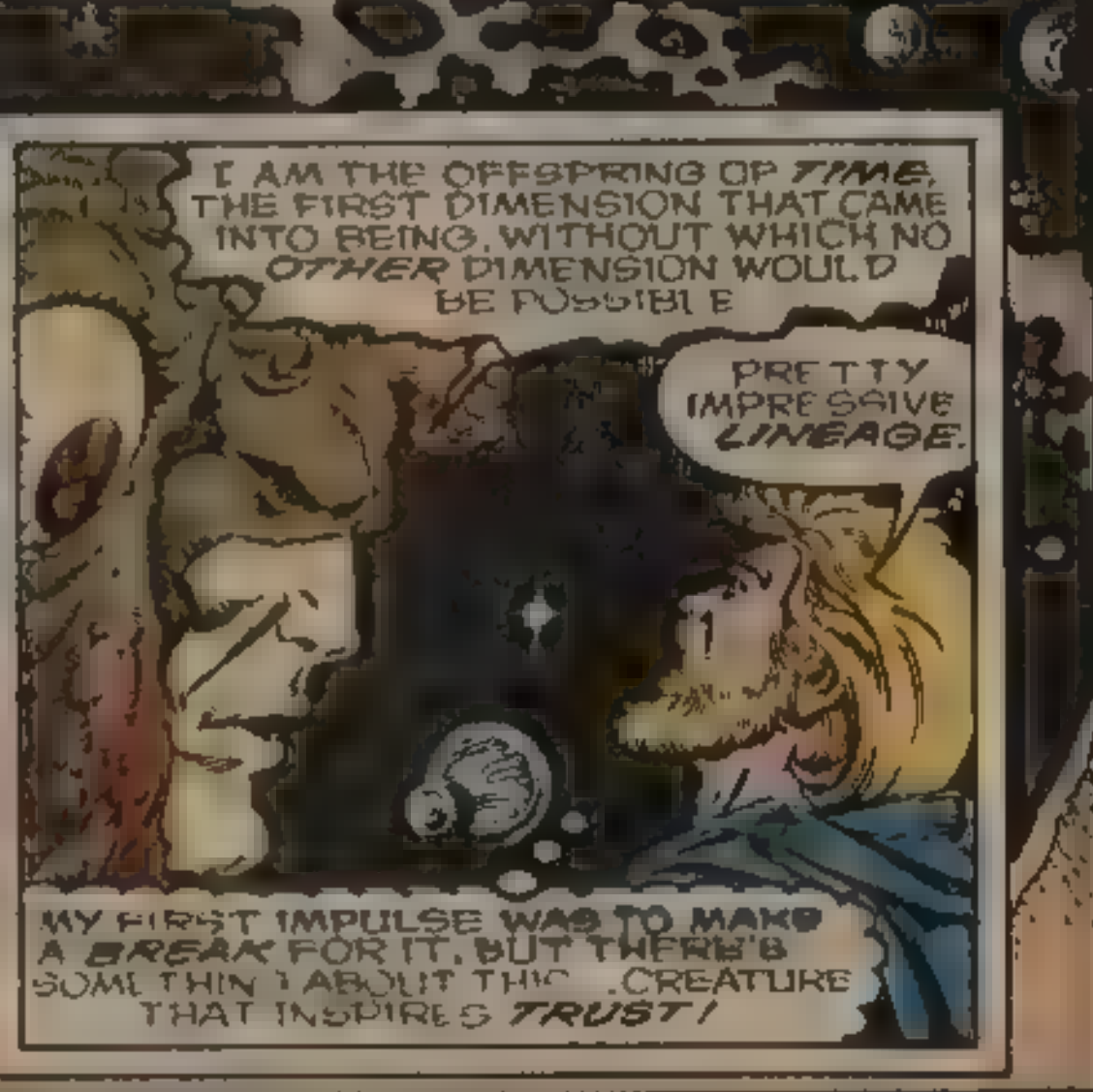
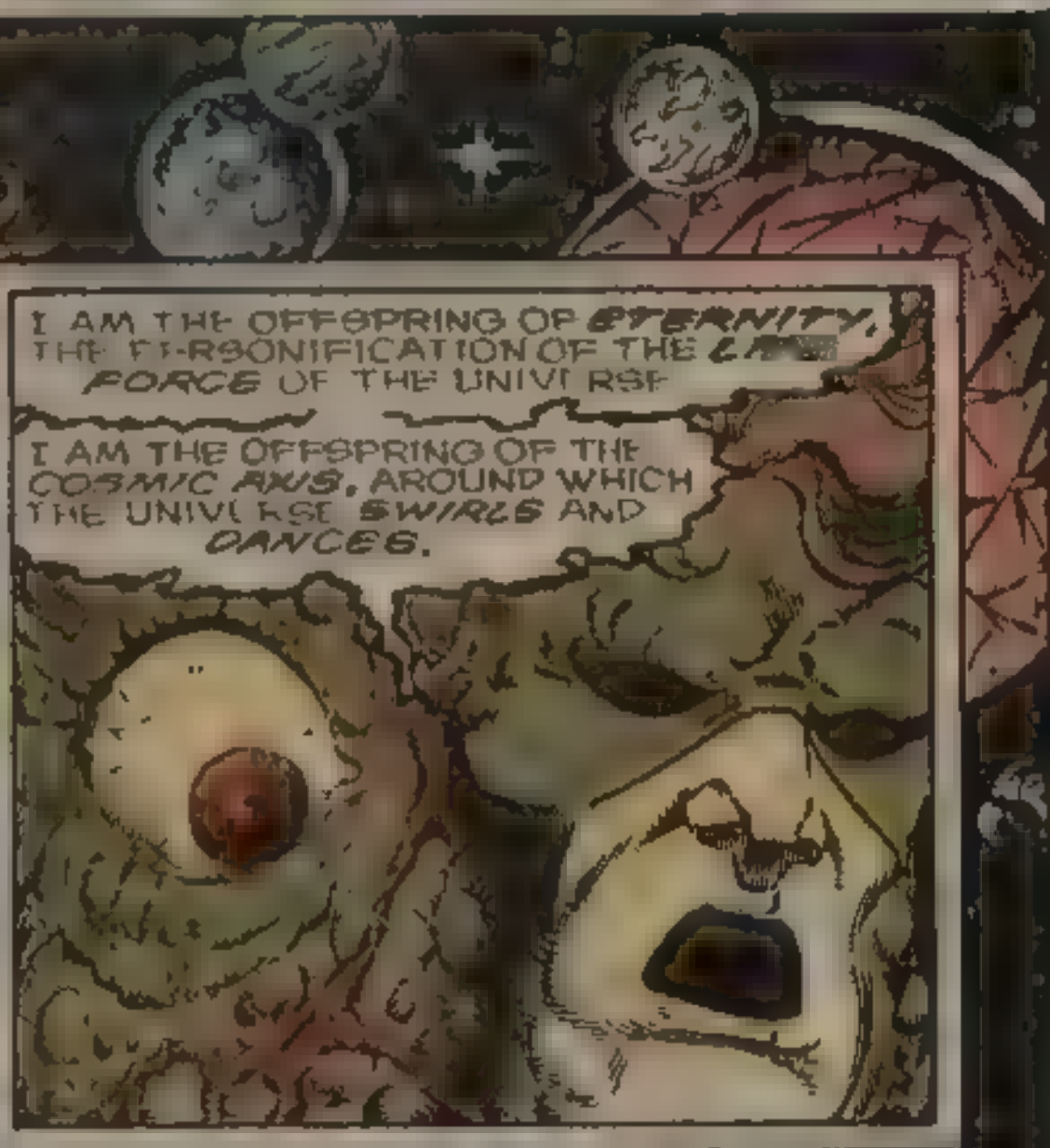
YOU ARE ONLY  
PROLONGING  
THE  
INEVITABLE.













SO...WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING, FON?

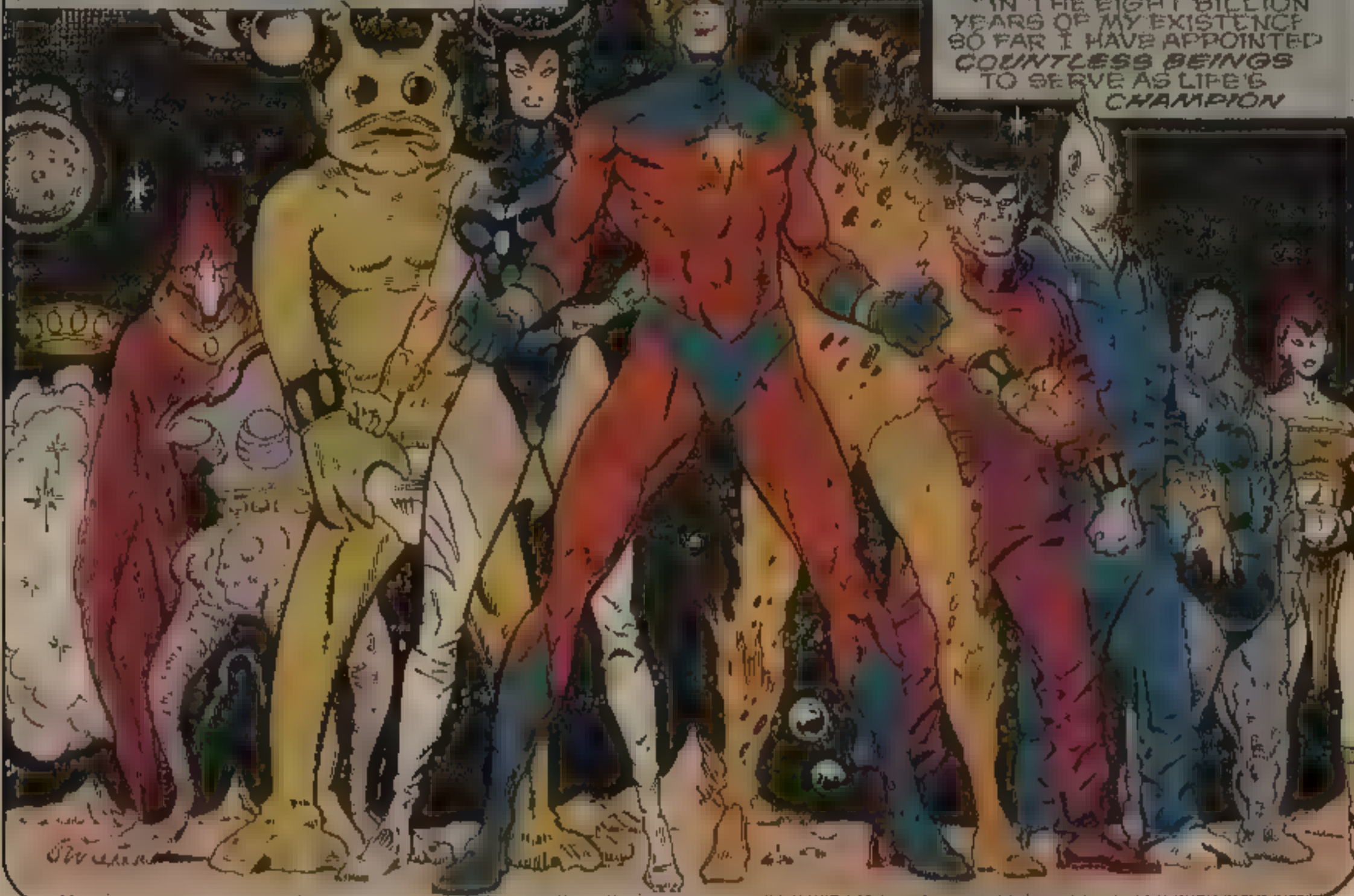
AS AN INTERMEDIARY OF THE SUPREME FORCES OF THE UNIVERSE, I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY TO INSURE THAT CONDITIONS IN THE COSMOS REMAIN AMENABLE TO LIFE

FROM TIME TO TIME HOWEVER COSMIC EVIL HAS ARISEN TO THREATEN THE PRECARIOUS HOLD THAT LIFE HAS IN THE UNIVERSE!

"IT IS THEN MY TASK TO APPOINT A CHAMPION...A GUARDIAN.. A PROTECTOR, AND DEVELOP THE CHOSEN ONE'S KNOWLEDGE, STRENGTH, AND CHARACTER TO ENABLE HIM TO CARRY OUT THIS RESPONSIBILITY.

"AS BOTH AN INSTRUMENT OF POWER AND SYMBOL OF HER STATION, THE PROTECTOR IS AWARDED QUANTUM-BANDS--YES THOSE VERY DEVICES YOU ELECTED TO PLACE ON YOUR ARMS

"IN THE EIGHT BILLION YEARS OF MY EXISTENCE SO FAR I HAVE APPOINTED COUNTLESS BEINGS TO SERVE AS LIFE'S CHAMPION



THE LAST ENTITY TO ASSUME THE MANTLE WAS CAPTAIN MAR-VELL OF THE KREE.

THE NEUTRALIZATION OF THE STAR KILLER, THANOS!

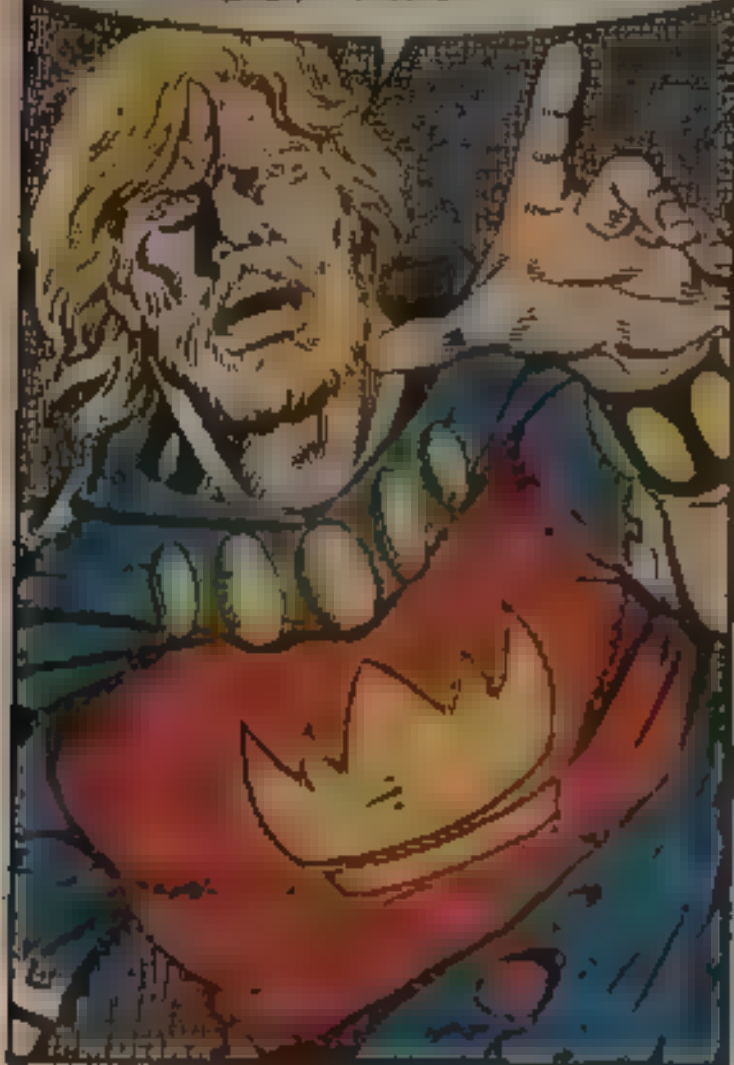
"HE WAS A GOOD MAN, AND HE ACQUITTED WELL THE TASK FOR WHICH HE WAS GROOMED--

"BUT MAR-VELL IS DEAD NOW, HAVING SUCCEMIBED TO THE RAVAGES OF DISEASE, AND THE TIME HAS COME TO APPOINT HIS SUCCESSOR!





WAIT A MINUTE, FON. YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT **CAPTAIN MARVEL**, RIGHT? WELL I'VE SEEN **PICTURES** OF HIM, AND HE NEVER WORE THESE WRIST-BANDS! A KID NAMED **MARVEL BOY** DID!



TRUE, **MAR-VELL** WAS **MEANT** TO ACQUIRE THE **QUANTUM-BANDS** BUT THROUGH **HAPPENSTANCE** OVER WHICH I HAD NO CONTROL THEY FELL INTO THE **WRONG HANDS**.



WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST MAKE **MARVEL BOY** YOUR CHAMPION, THEN?

CHAMPIONS ARE **BORN**, NOT MADE. **MARVEL BOY** WAS ULTIMATELY **UNWORTHY** BUT ONCE THE **QUANTUM-BANDS** WERE **ON** HIM, THEY COULD NOT BE REMOVED UNTIL HE **DIED**.



SO...WHAT ARE YOU **TELLING** ME? THAT I'M WORTHY TO WEAR THESE THINGS? YOU WANT **ME** TO BE THIS **UNIVERSAL PROTECTOR**?

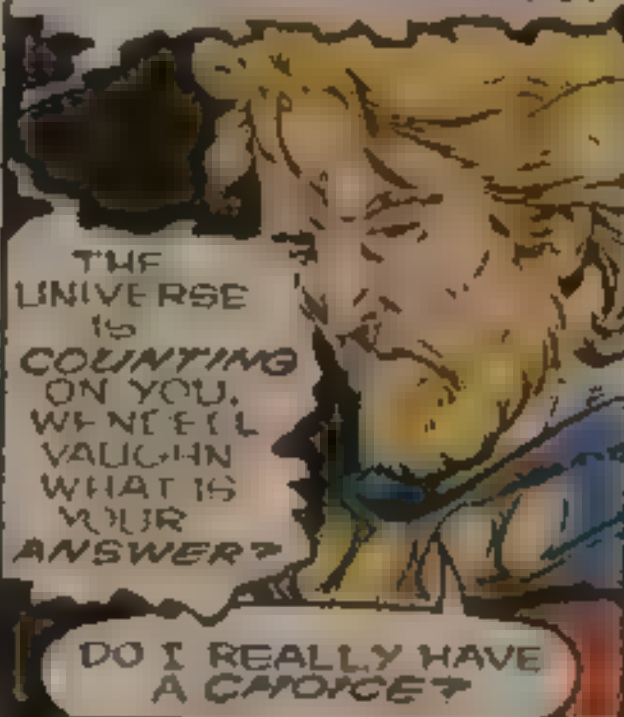


YES YOU ARE MY **CHOSEN ONE**, WENDELL VAUGHN. YOU HAVE THE **REQUISITE ATTRIBUTES**: INTELLIGENCE, COURAGE AND RESOURCEFULNESS

I HEREBY APPOINT YOU **PROTECTOR** AND ENTRUST YOU WITH THE MISSION OF SAFEGUARDING THE UNIVERSE FROM THE **GREATEST THREAT** TO ITS EXISTENCE I HAVE EVER PERCEIVED

BEFORE I AGREE TO ANYTHING, YOU'D BETTER TELL ME WHAT THIS THREAT IS

I KNOW BUT **THREE THINGS** ABOUT IT: THE THREAT WILL COME FROM SPACE, IT WILL MANIFEST ITSELF ON YOUR WORLD, AND IT WILL TRY TO SLAY ME TO GAIN THE **SECRET** OF COSMIC AWARENESS.

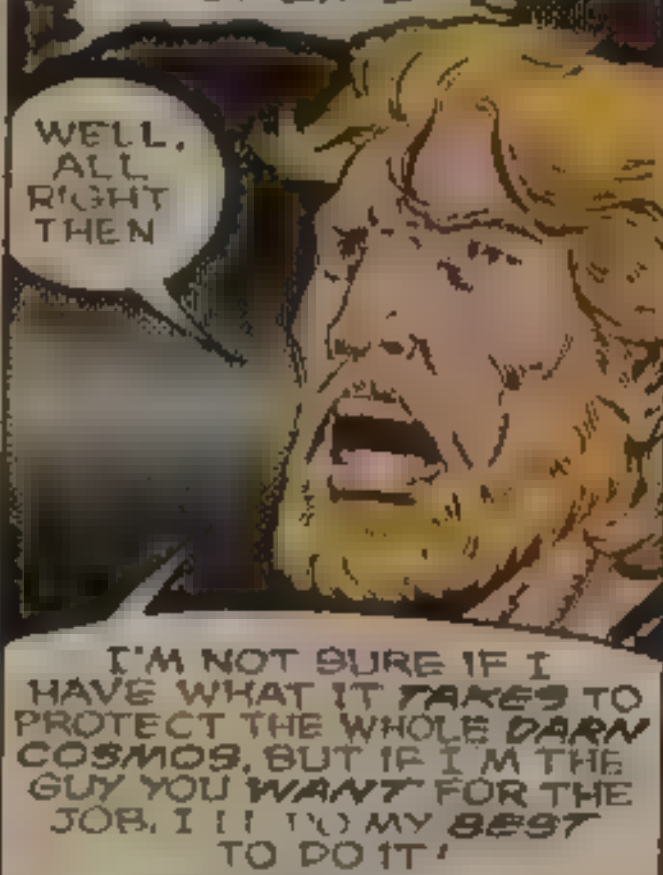


THE UNIVERSE IS **COUNTING** ON YOU. WE'LL VAUGHN WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?

DO I REALLY HAVE A CHOICE?

OF COURSE! FREE WILL IS AN AFFIRMATION OF LIFE

WELL, ALL RIGHT THEN



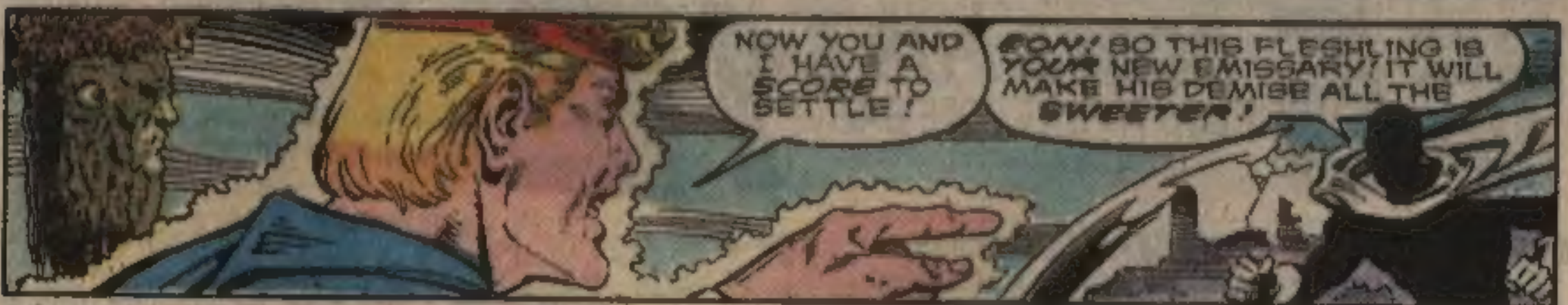
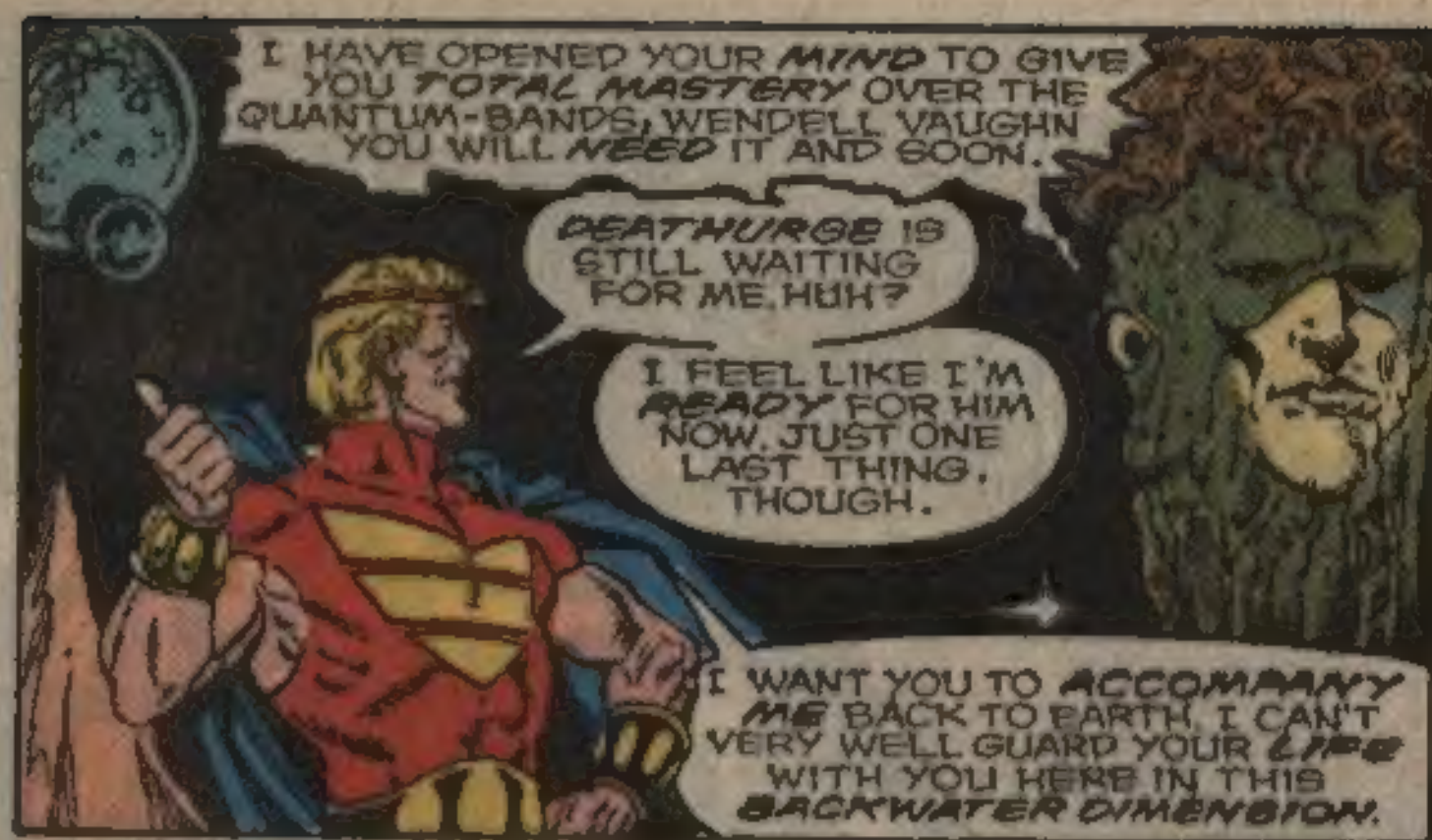
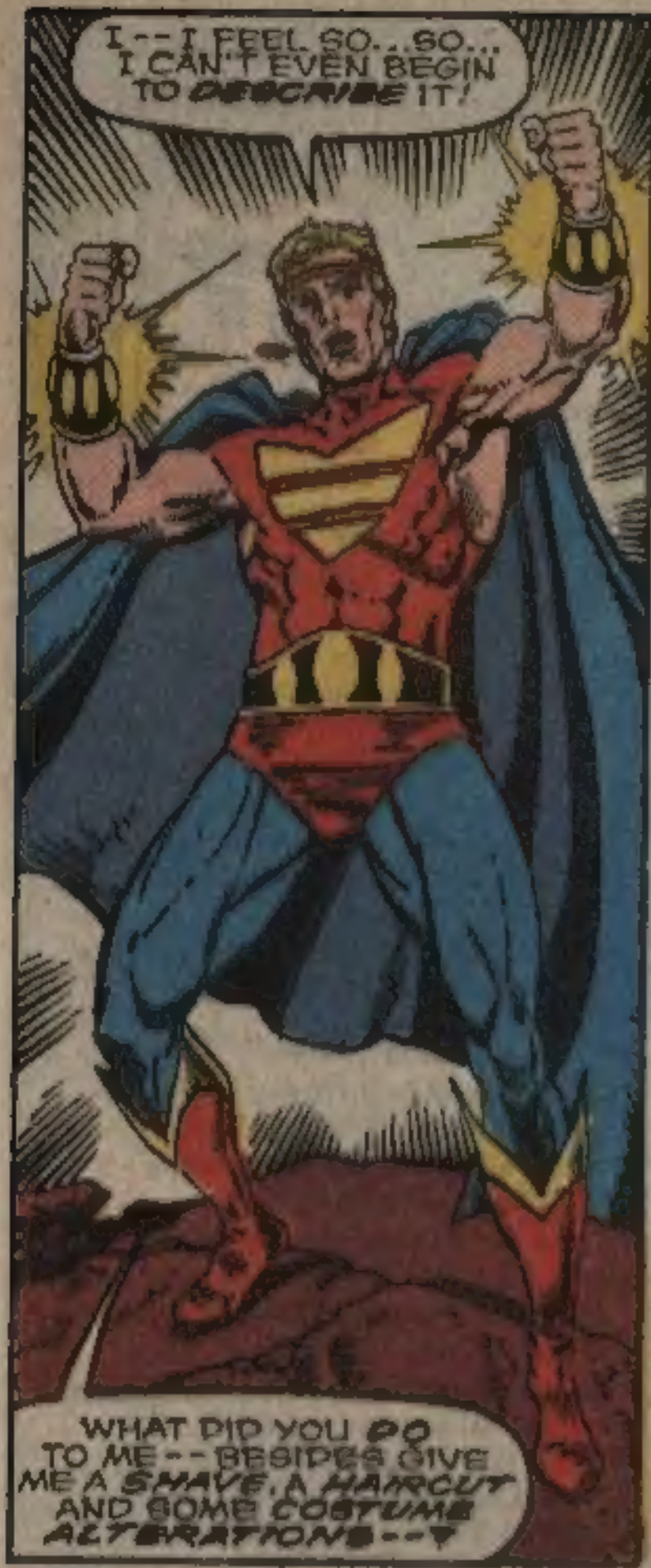
I'M NOT SURE IF I HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO PROTECT THE WHOLE **DARN COSMOS**, BUT IF I'M THE GUY YOU WANT FOR THE JOB, I'LL DO MY **BEST** TO DO IT!

GOOD NOW PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE **METAMORPHIC RITE OF PASSAGE**.

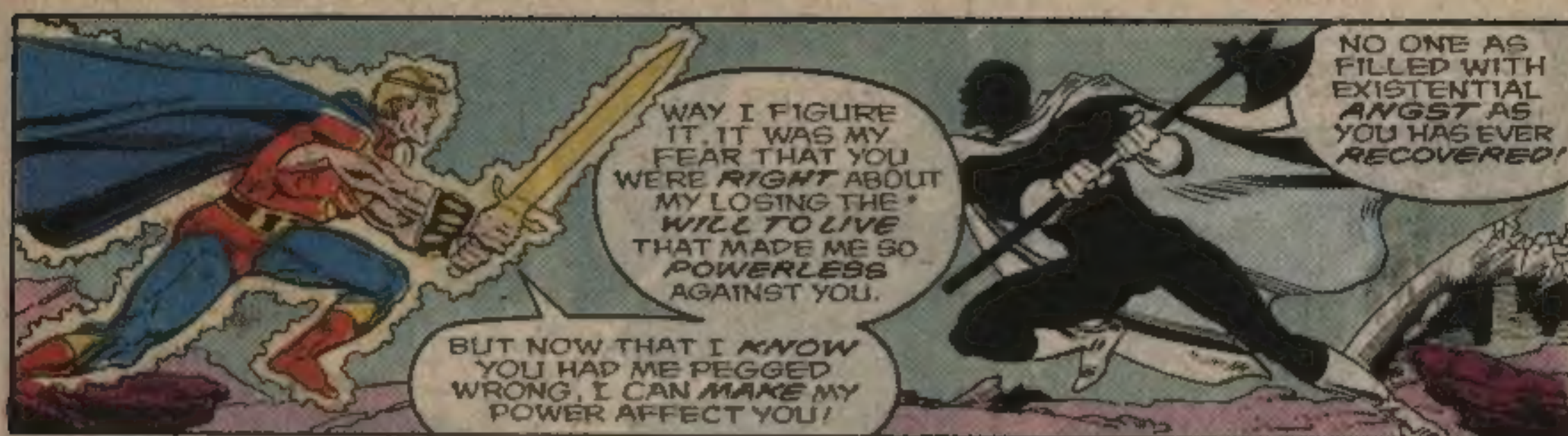
THE META WHAT?











WAY I FIGURE IT, IT WAS MY FEAR THAT YOU WERE *RIGHT* ABOUT MY LOSING THE *WILL TO LIVE* THAT MADE ME SO *POWERLESS* AGAINST YOU.

NO ONE AS FILLED WITH *EXISTENTIAL ANGST* AS YOU HAS EVER *RECOVERED!*

BUT NOW THAT I *KNOW* YOU HAD ME PEGGED *WRONG*, I CAN *MAKE* MY *POWER* AFFECT YOU!



THEN YOU'D BETTER CALL ME *"NO ONE"*, D'URGE -- BECAUSE I'M NOT ONLY *MYSELF* AGAIN --



-- BUT I CAN MATCH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT AND GO YOU *ONE BETTER!*

YOU FIGHT WITH THE *FEROCITY* OF THE *REBORN*.



I'LL TAKE THAT AS A *COMPLIMENT!*

DON'T LOOK NOW, DEATHURGE, BUT YOU'VE JUST MET YOUR *MATCH!*



YES... THE *LIFE-URGE* BURNS TOO STRONGLY WITHIN YOU NOW FOR ME TO DELIVER YOU INTO *OBIVION'S EMBRACE*.



*FAREWELL*, QUASAR. WHEN WE MEET AGAIN, YOU WILL *BEG* ME TO *KILL* YOU...

... AND I WILL *REFUSE*.



SAME TO YOU, *FELLA!*

READY TO GO, *EON?*



LET ME JUST RETRIEVE MY  
LIFE SUPPORT HARNESS  
AND WE CAN--

YOU WILL  
NOT  
REQUIRE IT!

BUT THE  
TRIP BACK  
TO EARTH  
TAKES  
YEARS!  
UNLESS YOU  
HAPPEN TO  
KNOW A  
SHORT-  
CUT...!

AS A  
MATTER  
OF FACT,  
I DO.

PREPARE  
TO QUANTUM-  
JUMP, WENDELL  
VAUGHN.

**WOWEEEE!**

FIFTEEN SECONDS LATER...

THAT'S  
EARTH! BUT  
HOW? WHAT  
DID I DO?

WITH MY GUIDANCE,  
YOU USED YOUR  
QUANTUM-BANDS TO  
FOLD SPACE AND  
MAKE DISTANCES  
COLLAPSE.

IT SHOULD ONLY  
BE ATTEMPTED WHEN  
YOU ARE ORBITAL  
DISTANCES FROM  
CELESTIAL BODIES

WHATEVER YOU SAY,  
MENTOR OF MINE!

MAN O MAN, IS  
DAD GOING TO BE  
SURPRISED TO  
SEE ME BACK!

AND WITH  
A DINNER  
GUEST  
NO LESS!

**END**



Authorisation correspondence: All letters correspondence for publication must be signed by the author. Letters must be sent to the Editor, *Journal of Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics*, 1111 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA.

I first submitted a proposal for a QUASAR book in 1984, and even piloted the first issue with a story that bears an uncanny resemblance to the story in this, the second issue. But then an editor I knew wanted someone to write a QUASAR book, so I put QUASAR on hold to go do that (I always wanted to write a beam book). When that was done, an editor in chief I knew was putting together a New Universe and I thought it might be advantageous to get in

My fondest hope in doing QUABAR is that I can not only provide whopping good yarns for you to read month in and month out, but I

—Mark Gruenwald

QUASAR #1  
CAPTAIN AMERICA #217  
IRON MAN #218-219  
IRON MAN #220-221  
CAPTAIN AMERICA #221  
IRON MAN #222-223  
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #53-55, #67, #73, #74  
IRON MAN #74  
MARVEL TEAM-UP #113  
MARVEL TEAM-UP #114-115  
CLASH #225  
AVENGERS #302-303  
IRON MAN #303-304

Data about Uranus was culled from "Voyager: Discovery at Uranus" by Richard Berry in the May 1986 issue of *ASTRONOMY*.

"URANUS HAS 20 RINGS AROUND IT, BUT THEY ARE SO FAINT THAT THEY WEREN'T OBSERVED UNTIL 12 YEARS AGO. URANUS HAS 5 MAJOR MOONS--MIRANDA, ARIEL, UMBRIEL, TITANIA, AND OBERON--AND 10 MINOR ONES. NONE OF THE 15 IS AS LARGE AS OUR MOON, LUNA.